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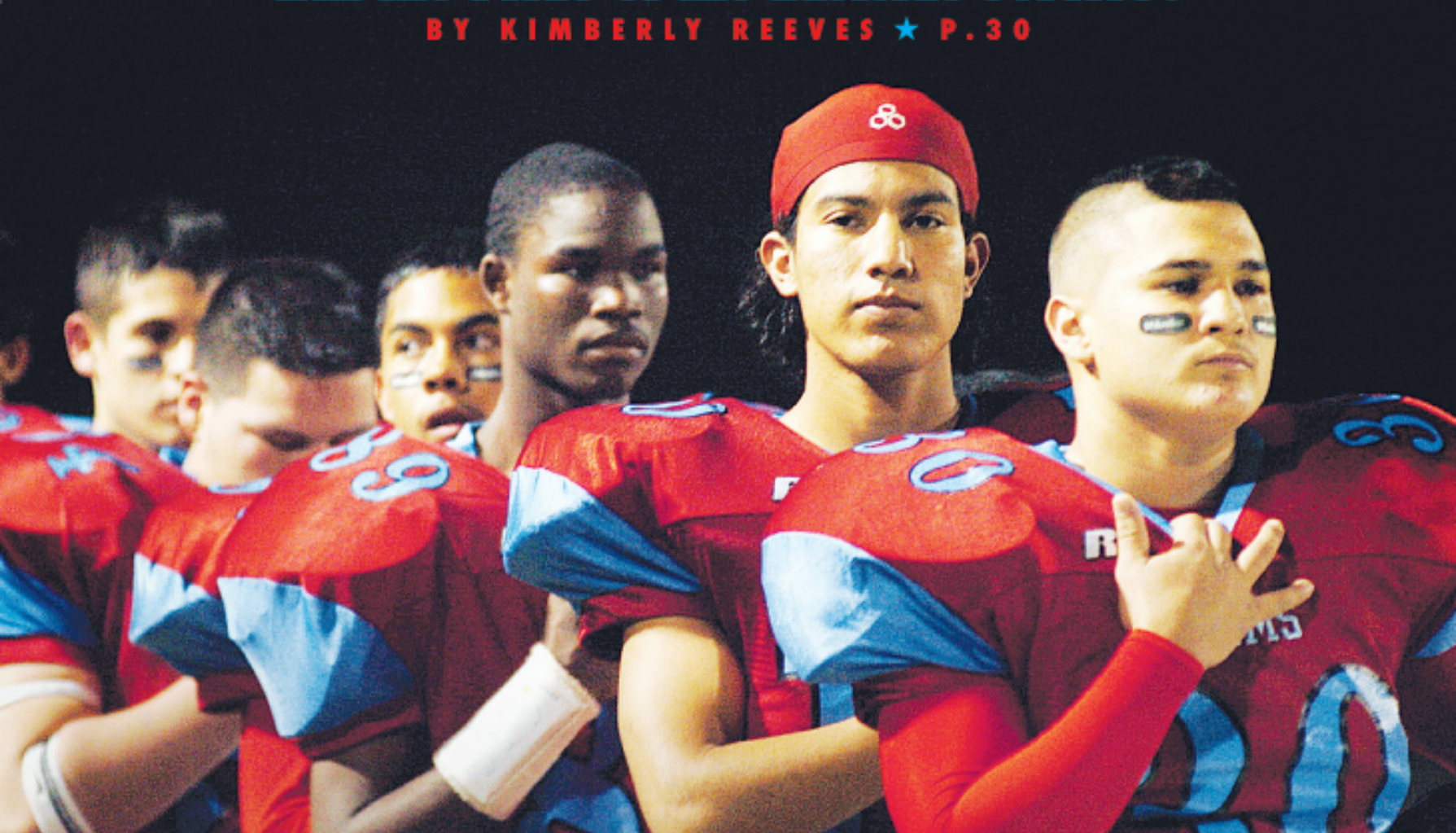
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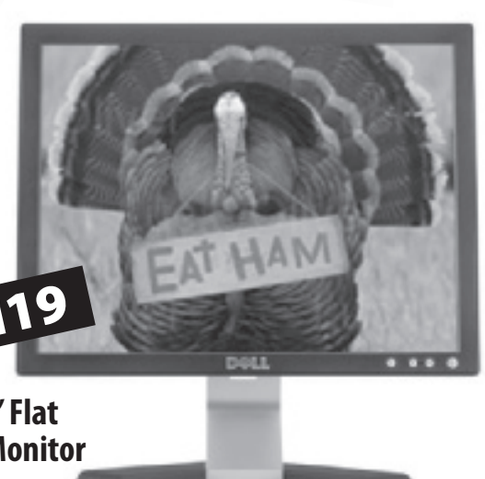


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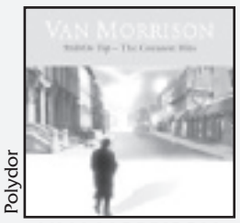
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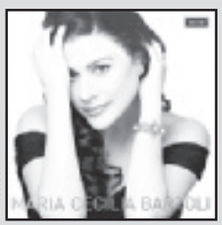
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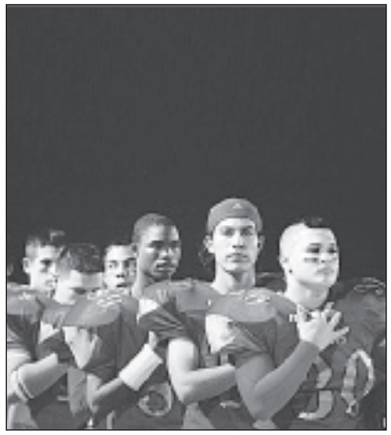
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NEW THIS WEEK!

EARACHE!: Ghosts in Death Valley Night's **POLICE** blotter, and Girlie Action gets it on with **AVENGED SEVENFOLD**

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Film, TV, games, and more fun with **MOVING PICTURES**

CHRONIQUE: **CHANUKAH** and **CHRISTMAS** gift suggestions for the superstylin', plain ole everyday stylin', and more

THE GAY PLACE: **NAKED TICKET GIVEAWAY**, plus the Kates and pals talk post-turkey stress disorder

CHRONIC: Opening up **CITY COUNCIL NOTEBOOK**, Christmas at the Capitol, and more seasonal specials

THE SCORE: Josh Rosenblatt on the **NBA** and the **NBDL**, and more somewhat sports-related tidbits and whatnot from here and afar

web extra

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Creative Mass

The people who forged Austin's identity also helped fuel its growth

BY LOUIS BLACK

I spent the day after Thanksgiving thinking. (I could predict all the dumb jokes that can be attached to that statement, but why deprive people of their simple pleasures?) I was mostly thinking about Austin. As both the *Chronicle*'s online forums and "Postmarks" have amply demonstrated, many people are fed up, distressed, and/or unable to afford living in the city that Austin has become. The blame is cast in many directions: Among those blamed are developers, politicians, yuppies, the city manager's office, and city staff, as well as Californians and other recent arrivals.

When I moved to Austin, it was a laid-back, easygoing, bucolic (small) city where rents were cheap and the living was easy. I miss those days as much as anybody. It was also, however, a community where creative talents, if they hoped to make a decent living, had to move elsewhere. Many didn't; Austin at that time probably had more large and small cult musical artists than almost any other community. Still, moving to L.A., New York City, or Nashville was the best way for an artist to raise his or her income and standard of living.

All that has changed. Austin is no longer as easygoing and small a city as it once was but instead has become a sprawling metropolis spreading like kudzu over the Hill Country. Instead of being one of the least expensive cities in the country, as it was rated for so long, it is now one of the most expensive. The evidence of growth and change is everywhere, and it seems like on an almost-daily basis, old landmarks and cherished places are being lost.

The natural impulse in response to the situation, of course, is to blame. Whether it be the groups mentioned above, greed, or just insensitivity to the quality of life that has long defined this city, we know that the problem is the enemy, and the enemy is out there.

Yes, I'll end up quoting Pogo, but I won't start there. At least one of the major kinks in this good-guys-vs.-bad-guys scenario is the creative community. The bottom line is that Austin's creative community is enormous: Those involved work here and earn a decent, and sometimes much better than decent, living here. Certainly evolving technologies, enormous advances in media and communication, and the accompanying breakdown in industrial structure of much of the entertainment business contributed to changes in that community, but that is beside the point. The evolution of the arts and entertainment industry in Austin has been extraordinary, with filmmaking, gaming companies, music- and musician-related enterprises, writers, and a whole slew of other creative types not just emerging from or moving here but hiring other people to come here. The prosperity of much of that community should not be underestimated.

Certainly, artist-controlled, homegrown businesses are preferable to monolithic industry control. In music, as far as I can figure, Susan Walker was one of the very first to snap to what was going on. In establishing Tried & True Music, she has probably earned Jerry Jeff Walker not only much more than he would have made at a record company but saved him vast amounts of grief in the process. Many, many other local musicians have followed, establishing their own businesses, sometimes just marketing themselves, and sometimes handling other acts, as well.

When Richard Linklater stayed here after *Slacker*'s success – and also stayed very involved in the Austin Film Society and thus the local film community – everything having to do with Texas filmmaking changed. The significant changes in technology, communications, and the industry made it easier to follow the path that Linklater pioneered, but it had to do as much with purpose and commitment as with tools.

Elizabeth Avellán and Robert Rodriguez, in creating Troublemaker Studios, not only signaled that Austin was a crucial center of American filmmaking but also established a model for homegrown regional filmmaking that measures up to, if not exceeds, Hollywood standards. Both of them have contributed enormously not to just the local scene but nationally, as well. Rodriguez's stature is obvious: He is a cinematic and technical genius who has had as much impact on the way films are made and the tools involved as he has on movies themselves. Avellán's contributions should never be underrated, however; as a businesswoman, active participant in the nonprofit and artistic communities, a creative talent, and one who understands, counsels, and nurtures filmmakers, her influence, though perhaps not as documented, is as significant.

So what is the point? (I'm not even touching the gaming community, nor writers nor innovators, in the above but just scraping the surface.) The American reality is that creative activities often are among the highest-paying types of employment. The growth and changes in Austin are not due to these villains – and although some have benefited handsomely, for the most part, their successes were neither intentional nor carefully planned.

If people didn't want to come to Austin, no one could have done anything to make the city grow. Instead many people and businesses want to move here. Anecdotally, one can document a few cases in which the city or local residents were crucial in luring either of those here. More often than not, though, they came on their own, because of the city and the environment.

At the same time, many in Austin began to do better and better, thus raising their standards of living. Though they by no means constituted all of it, a significant chunk of this evolving group included many in the creative community.

Austin has long been defined by its creative community. The atmosphere and environment thus created has helped define Austin, as well as served to lure businesses and people here just by dint of its existence. The growth of that community, including an often-significant increase in earnings, has contributed to the changes affecting the city. The creative community, however, is still critical in defining this city. Its success both accentuates the city's identity and contributes to unwanted and substantial changes.

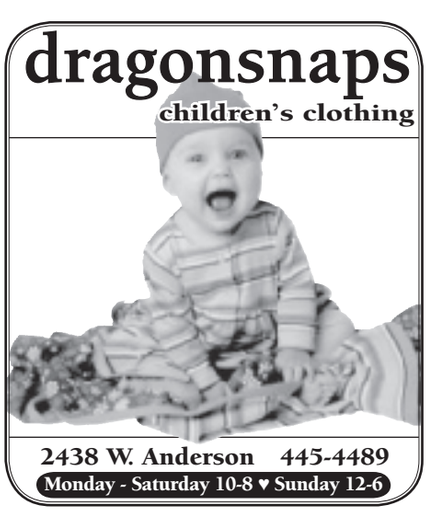
Yep, here it is: "We have met the enemy and he is us," as Pogo said. There are groups and individuals that have done harm to the sense, style, and well-being of the community we call Austin. Still, by and large, the changes that so many of us detest, or at least despair over, have been driven by folks just like you and me. The only reason I make this argument, as unpopular with some as it is certain to be, is because the continued demonization of one part of the community by other parts is not just wrong but violently unhealthy. This is not limited to any one group. Those in favor of even more growth – who benefit from development and are not nostalgic for nor appreciative of the Austin that was – demonize others as much as the citizens and organizations determined to preserve the city as much as is possible, to protect the environment, and to promote social and economic justice. If this battle is viewed as good guys vs. bad guys, the truth is that it is lost even before it is begun. When in any way the conflict is portrayed as pitting the malevolent against the noble, progressives against reactionaries, realists against wide-eyed dreamers, a conflict that is mostly not personal is personalized.

The problem is people. The problem is shifts in this country's economy, as well as changing demographic patterns. The problem is not that these issues should never be personalized – it's that when they are, more often than not, they may make someone feel good and righteous, but the issues at hand don't really end up being addressed. The continuation of conflict is assured, while the chance at compromise or resolution can be forever lost.

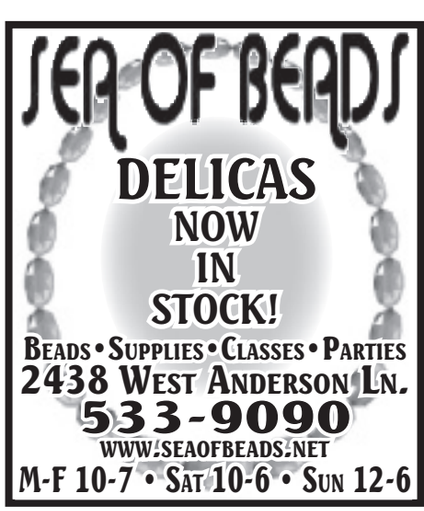
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Living in Another Austin

Dear Editor,

I live in another Austin from city attorney Casey Dobson ["Wal-Mart Case Could Take Several Weeks to Decide," News, Nov. 23, and "Quote of the Week," News, Nov. 16]. My other Austin does not need to take the city to court to enforce city ordinances. I live in an Austin where citizens vote and approve the city's neighborhood plan for livable density. My Austin has a city staff and council that believes in the community. The Austin I live in does not need a group of developers to tell me what is best for my neighborhood.

My Austin home is not above Walled-Mark. My Austin lets citizens vote on how they want their neighborhoods to look! My Austin is the live music capital of the world, and Lady Bird Lake is my playground.

When Mr. Dobson mentioned "this city," he was correct that we "believe – everybody was just out to get them." City staff's recommendations are usually for the developers and against the neighborhoods. The Planning Commission has voted against the neighborhoods and for the developers. Judges have ruled against neighborhoods and against enforcing existing city ordinances.

Developers are currently taking over neighborhood associations and planning teams. Neighborhood planning team officers are worn out! There is so much financial gain for the developers; there seems to be a conflict of interest. There is so little financial gain for the neighborhoods, except a decent place to live, which is another Austin.

Sincerely,
David Haun

Vote Your Conscience

Dear Editor,

I so strongly disagree with Mr. Steven McCloud that I must speak ["Postmarks," Nov. 16]. His misconception as to the purpose of voting has become all too prevalent in America. I was taught in high school civics (during the Nixon years) that you should vote your conscience – not for who is ahead in the polls nor against those who "don't have a chance" but for the one you believe in. I will vote for Ron Paul because I agree with his politics. The only vote wasted is the vote not cast. Oh, and I voted for Ross Perot, Ralph Nader, and the Kinkster, as well.

Big Al Riley

Charge to Drive Downtown

Dear Editor,

Council Member Brewster McCracken's proposal ["Developing Stories: Park Once, Invest Twice," News, Nov. 23] to finance a greener Downtown with parking garages makes as much sense as selling poppy seeds to finance treatment for heroin addiction.

More cars coming to Downtown will require not only more parking garages but wider roads to handle increased traffic.

Rather than such a counterproductive plan, Austin should copy London. There the city charges hefty fees of those who drive Downtown. The revenue is used to improve public transport Downtown as well as trails and bikeways.

Philip Russell

It's That He Couldn't

Dear Editor,

As I have said previously, I am not saying that the man [Ron Paul] shouldn't win, just that he cannot win ["Postmarks," Nov. 16]. In a perfect world, money and power wouldn't matter. We would elect the person who has the best ideas for the country. I would respond that if you feel we live in a "true democracy," then I do provide an accurate description. This is how it is. Ron Paul is wasting millions of dollars of other people's money. This money could be spent supporting a candidate that may actually have a chance of winning. How many die-hard Republicans do you think are rooting for Ron Paul? You realize that is his party affiliation, don't you? This is a major difference between liberal/progressives and conservatives. Conservatives vote for whom has the best chance of winning; lib/progressives vote for whom they wish would win.

Steven McCloud

Patch the Sidewalk Ordinance

Dear Editor,

Austin's City Council will consider a sidewalk ordinance on Dec. 6. The gist of the ordinance (posted at **www.tinyurl.com/2w6u6p**) is that sidewalk installation will be required with building permits. Unfortunately, the ordinance is full of large loopholes.

Sidewalk installation may be waived if the director of public works "determines that the development does not generate pedestrian traffic." Thus, a car dealership, for example, could be built without a sidewalk. But a sidewalk is not mainly for people walking to the building it fronts. It's for people walking past the building, on their way somewhere else. Any business that generates motor traffic definitely needs a sidewalk.

Sidewalk installation may be waived "if there are no sidewalks in the vicinity." This is a very bad rule. It says that streets without a sidewalk will never get a sidewalk.

Sidewalk installation may be waived if the neighborhood plan doesn't call for a sidewalk. But sidewalks are not just for neighborhood residents. They're for people walking through the neighborhood. Neighborhoods should not be allowed to deny pedestrians safe passage.

For a building on a corner, a sidewalk is required on only one of the two streets that meet at the corner. Thus the sidewalk system falls apart at the corner, a dangerous place for pedestrians.

Sidewalk construction is waived wherever there are trees, drainage ditches, or other obstacles. It would be much better to have a procedure for routing sidewalks around these obstacles.

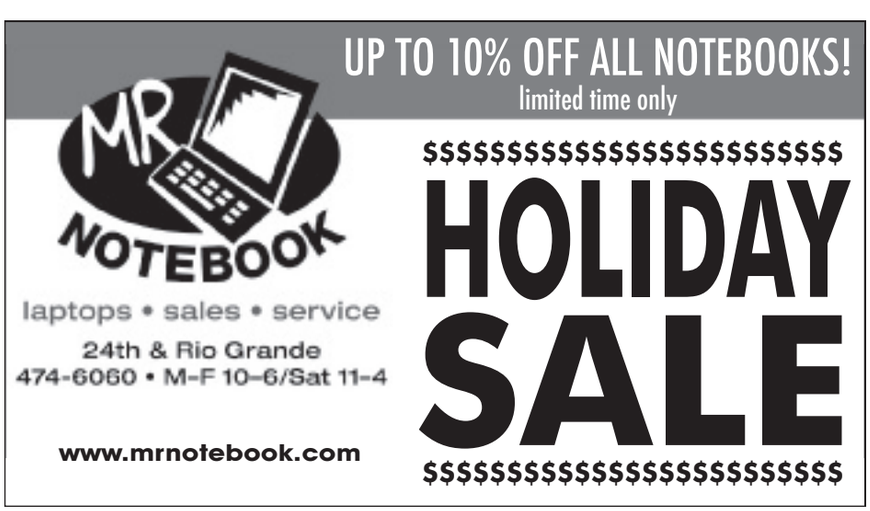
I hope that the City Council will pass this ordinance, but only after patching the holes in it.

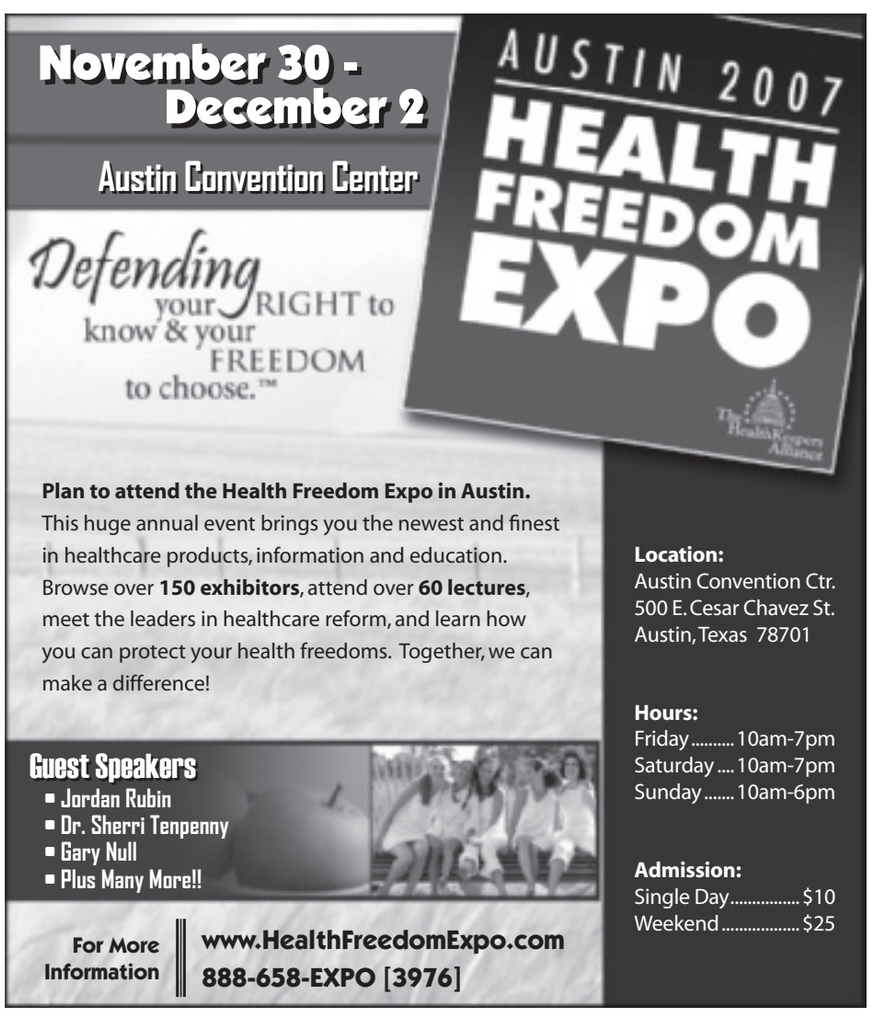
Yours truly,
Amy Babich

continued on p.10









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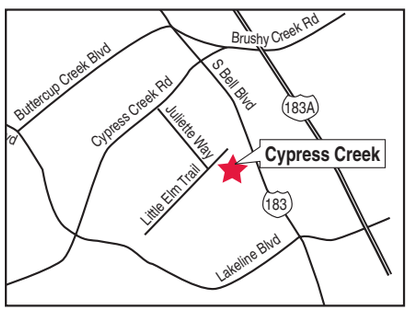
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POSTMARKS :: FROM P.8

Why Is Biodiesel So Expensive?

Dear Editor,

Why does biodiesel cost so much? I just purchased 25 gallons of B100 at $3.25 for a grand total of $81. Why are we paying so much per gallon when this commodity is not based on *oil* prices? Also, why is it being sold at the same prices as petrol and diesel? They are not required to tax us the state fuel tax of .225 nor the state highway fuel tax of .224, so the real price should be … $3.25 minus the state taxes equaling $2.80.

Steven Smith

Shame on Austin

Dear Editor,

The only matching set of drinking glasses that I own came as a gift with purchase from one of Austin's finest establishments, the Ginger Man. Rumor has it that in a little over a year this place will be turned into yet another high-rise condo that fat cats will get rich off of and those yuppie jerks can infest like lice.

Shame on Austin if this is true. Once again we take something that everyone enjoys – and I'm assuming they enjoy it, because the Ginger Man is always packed when I go in – and we take away its charm, in order to make a fast buck off of it. We forget that the reason most people want to live Downtown is because of places like the Ginger Man. I once thought Will Wynn would do this city well. Now I see that he's just looking to turn us into another Houston or San Antonio. South Congress has already been ruined; the Eastside is in the full throes of gentrification; so of course, it's the perfect time to muck up Downtown. Pretty soon you won't even be able to see the Capitol or the UT Tower. They'll both be blocked from view with condos and banks, signs of the proud tradition of corporatism that Austin is now looking to carry.

I always thought the saddest day of my life would be Danny Young's retirement from the restaurant business. I was mistaken. If the Ginger Man is closed, I will have a new dark day to look back on.

Katy Ludlow

Saying 'I'm Sorry'

Dear Editor,

I would like to say that I am sorry. Unlike some of our government officials and the way they handle money, I would like to say I am sorry I may have misused some of my school loans. Being a single parent and then becoming a diabetic and now maybe losing my driver's license due to having seizures, I am sorry I owe $26,000 to our country. Please forgive me. I am trying to find a job as we speak, but unlike Bush and all those other guys, I am sorry. I'll try to pay on it when I can with what I have. Please America, forgive me. It's you I owe, not the government. It was your money. Forgive me.

Gary Mitchell
Bartlett, Texas

Include Students in Process

Dear Editor,

On Oct. 12 the Brackenridge Tract Task Force issued a series of recommendations to the University of Texas System Board of Regents regarding the future use of the Brackenridge Tract.

The task force concluded that the Colorado and Brackenridge apartment sites, for years now used for university student housing, "would be more beneficially utilized as part of a new master plan developed to produce significant funds to support the educational mission of the University."

As a graduate student and resident living in the Colorado Apartments, it is my hope that the board of regents will decide to include students in the master-plan process. We believe that the university would be best served if the respective sites remained used in their current facility. Graduate-student housing is a visionary and long-term investment that can truly support the education mission of the university.

Maria Esteva

U.S. Run by Organized Crime

Dear Editor,

During the Mark Shields and David Brooks commentary portion of PBS's *The NewsHour* (Nov. 9), they were discussing the indictment of New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik. More specifically, they deliberated the effect of this scandal on Rudy Giuliani, who appointed Kerik to that post and stood by while the latter allegedly enriched himself by hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of dollars. Shields noted that Giuliani also has current business connections with a man defrocked of his priesthood for pedophilia (and who had officiated at least one of Giuliani's weddings). Brooks, an editorialist of *The New York Times*, then offered his take. We, the American people, are not looking for someone who is "pure." We want someone who is tricky, a conniver, who can deal with other scoundrels, and get the job (of president) done (and can defeat Hillary Clinton). I have never heard so blatant a statement that our country is run by organized crime and that is what we want and need or so compelling an explanation as to why America is economically bleeding to death before our complacent eyes (Michael Ventura's verbose columns ["Letters @ 3am"] on the subject notwithstanding).

Sincerely,
Kenney C. Kennedy

continued on p.12

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POSTMARKS :: FROM P.10

Fearing a Return of Monopolies

Dear Editor,

In 1901 when Theodore Roosevelt assumed the office of president, one of his first tasks was to dismantle monopolistic corporations. Roosevelt believed that the government had the right to regulate big business to protect the welfare of society.

In 1934 the Communications Act enforced the policy of having every media outlet prove to the government that the service they provided was in the "public interests, convenience and necessity." All of that changed in 1996 when the Republican Congress passed the Telecommunications Act and was signed by President Bill Clinton. The Republican Congress and both parties bowed to the lobbying of powerful media moguls. Economist and Nobel Laureate Robert Solow calls this "nothing less than elite plunder." The redistribution of the wealth to the wealthy and the redistribution of the power to the powerful.

The media is a force that cuts to the very foundation of a democracy. When the information channels are choked and controlled by the rich and powerful and ignore the pleas of minorities, a free press no longer exists. Today a few powerful organizations now dominate the media landscape in America, and as ownership becomes more and more concentrated, fewer and fewer independent sources will survive. This small group of elites will determine what the public will or will not hear, read, and see. Bill Moyers calls this "censorship of knowledge" and is driven by unaccountable executives whose primary goal is increasing profits.

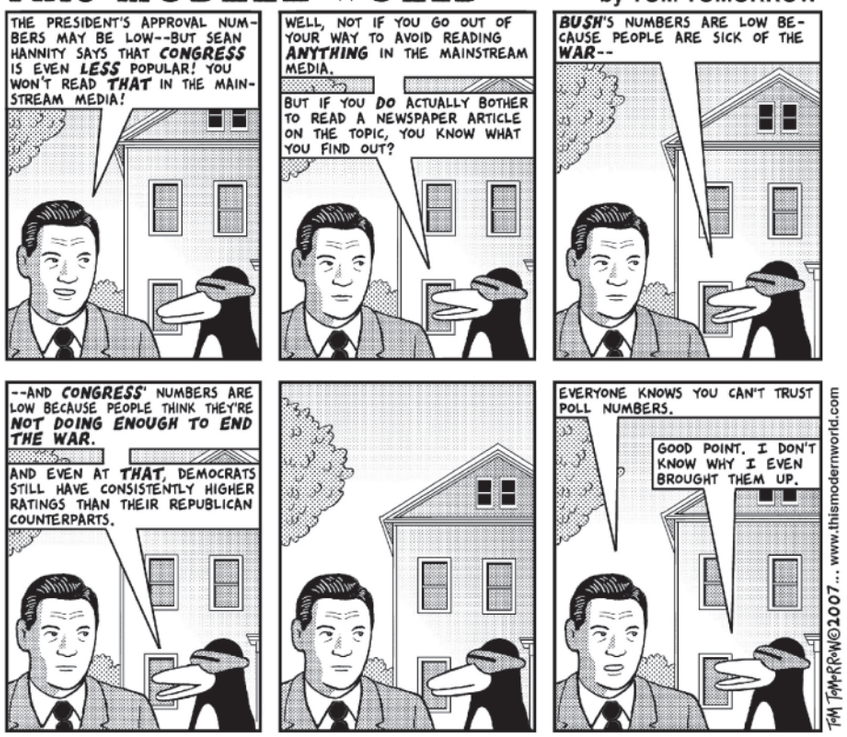
A monopoly is described as a single seller in a given industry. Being a single seller, by itself, is neither good nor evil; it depends how one gained that single status. Did one obtain that status by competition in the free market, or did one obtain it by political pull, lobbying? If such status is obtained through competition in the free market, then the monopoly, the successful business, is good. If the status is obtained using the government to force one's competition out of business, then the monopoly is evil. If we allow the current trend of "media consolidation" to continue, I fear a return of these monopolies.

Dan Arellano

continued on p.14

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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Why the U.S. Invaded Iraq

Dear Editor,

From weapons of mass destruction, liberating Iraqis from Saddam Hussein, and finally battling the amorphous specter of "Islamo-fascism," the reasons for the U.S. invasion of Iraq have changed almost every year. But with the recent signing of the "declaration of principles" between President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, the truth has been revealed: The U.S. went to war against Iraq to seize its oil.

Sure, there are other less prominent reasons that we decided to go to war: The chance for the privatization bonanza, which has occurred, fattening the pockets of top administration officials who have investments in reconstruction firms – à la Dick Cheney – and basic geopolitical motivation to strengthen America's presence around the world. But these reasons probably wouldn't have sufficed for an invasion absent Iraq's oil.



The declaration of principles that Bush has signed with al-Maliki officially calls for a U.S. troop presence in Iraq for the foreseeable future and also creates "preferential treatment for U.S. investors." Think about that. U.S. troops will stay and die in Iraq, despite any reconciliation between the factions of Iraq's government, so that American investors can siphon oil while profiting from the newest free market in the Middle East. What more proof does anyone need? Democracy promotion is a euphemism for market-driven warfare.

Justin Finney

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3:30–6 PM .....Sara Hickman
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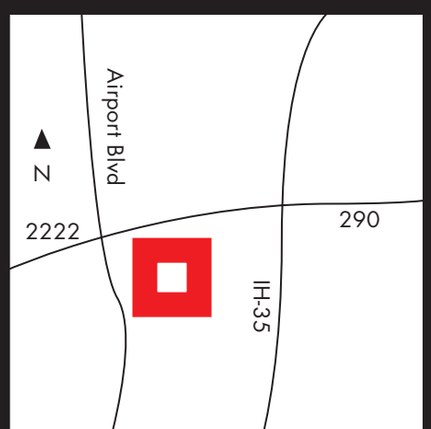
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JOHN ANDERSON

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I am proud that Texas has taken bold, visionary steps toward our looming infrastructure problems. There is no silver bullet to infrastructure needs, but we've taken the issue off the back burner and made it a priority. Communities now have the power and tools to address infrastructure needs as never before. Time will show that we were right to take bold steps on transportation policy."

– State Rep. Mike Krusee, R-Round Rock, announcing that he will not seek re-election in 2008



Christmas arrived at the state Legislature for Nadine Craddick, wife of House Speaker Tom Craddick, and it was pulled by a Clydesdale named Sidney. Three Virginia pines were delivered by horse-drawn carriage to the Capitol on Monday morning, where they were received by Craddick and Secretary of State Phil Wilson. (The speaker himself was off to one side, taking photos of his wife.) One tree went to the lieutenant governor's reception room, one to the governor's office, and the third, the Angel Tree, stands in the Capitol underground extension carrying gift tags. Each names a Christmas-wish present from 115 foster children currently in state care. Capitol staff and visitors are invited to take a tag, buy a present, and deliver it to the speaker's office before 10am on Dec. 10. "We can make sure that each of these children has a very special Christmas," said Craddick. ***– Richard Whittaker***

RICHARD WHITTAKER

HEADLINES

- District 52 state Rep. **Mike Krusee**, a House member since 1993, announced Tuesday that he won't seek another term. He didn't specifically address his reasons for stepping down. See "Beyond City Limits," p.19, for more.
- The 3rd Court of Appeals ruled on Wednesday morning against an appeal by **Williamson Co. Constable Gary Griffin** and affirmed a lower court dismissal of his lawsuit. Griffin had contested a 2005 Commissioners Court decision slashing his budget in a dispute concerning his office's coverage of mental-health calls. The court ruled "the budget transfer was authorized by the local government code and did not improperly intrude into Constable Griffin's sphere of authority."
- Austin Police Department Chief Art Acevedo terminated **Sgt. Michael Olsen** Wednesday for the June shooting of **Kevin Brown**. Olsen's Disciplinary Review Board hearing was Wednesday afternoon, and the 180-day civil service deadline for the APD's disciplinary decision was Nov. 30.

NAKED CITY

- You can add two more **City Council candidates** to the list: This week **Ken Weiss** held an outreach meeting announcing his hopes for Place 3 – the seat held by Jennifer Kim. (Randi Shade is also gunning for the seat.) Weiss' website (**www.weissforplace3.com**) emphasizes his local ties and history with the Texas Army National Guard. Also – no surprise – incumbent **Lee Leffingwell** formalized his plans to run for re-election this May. Local consultant Mark Nathan is aboard for the campaign, while former aide Andy Mormon is expected to return from Ghana to manage it; a kickoff party is expected in January. Leffingwell hasn't drawn a formal challenger yet, but Responsible Growth for Northcross' Jason Meeker is thought to be mulling a run. *– Wells Dunbar*
- It was a rough week for **Will Wynn** – or anyone blocking his car. After a Sunday profile in the *Statesman* castigating him for limp local leadership, the daily reported Tuesday on a disturbing 311 call regarding hizzoner. On Oct. 11, an 18-wheeler backing into the Monarch apartments construction site Downtown temporarily blocked traffic across West Fifth – until Wynn himself went over and ripped into the guilty parties, ordering them to call the cops and spewing what he called "a fog of profanity." The 311 audio

continued on p.19

POINT AUSTIN

Citizens Needed

Got an opinion on single-member districts? Speak up now.

BY MICHAEL KING

It's long past time for the city of Austin, and its City Council, to enact some form of proportional, geographical representation – also known as "single-member districts." I don't say that out of any deep-seated ideological agenda, just the simple conviction that a growing city of roughly 750,000 people cannot expect seven people adequately to represent equally every one of us, nor even every neighborhood and disparate interest group. Unlike some of my *Chronicle* colleagues or the louder of the anonymous online bloghorns, I think the current council is doing a reasonably good job, always considering the structural limits of public institutions in a system ultimately ruled by private wealth. But I think the members need some literal help – in a city this size, we need more representation at the ground level, and that means some form of single-member districting in combination with at-large districts and a mayor.

I don't necessarily subscribe to any of the particular plans (some quite innovative) currently being considered by the Charter Revision Committee, and I'm eager to hear all the arguments for and against any particular plan or the whole idea altogether. Indeed, when the committee was convened, I expected those arguments to be buzzing by now through the CRC and the city and to be building toward a major council discussion, currently scheduled for Jan. 23. Maybe it's just not ripe yet (as I write, Wednesday morning, another neighborhood outreach meeting is scheduled for tonight), but even the CRC chair, Mayor Emeritus Gus Garcia, acknowledged to me this week that based on the public response thus far, "It just doesn't seem to be a burning issue." He said that the five meetings have drawn about seven unrepeated public witnesses and that maybe people are just "worried about other things: the Dallas Cowboys, traffic, Christmas shopping, I don't know. But I think there's no two ways about it: A city this size needs to have single-member districts."

Pro and Con

The high-profile positions haven't changed much. Council Member Mike Martinez, who initiated the current SMD discussion, remains strongly in favor of the change and is anticipating a council vote to put it on the ballot next May. (The current council format was approved by the voters in 1967 and 1969; since 1973, variations on SMDs have been rejected six times.) Martinez says the issue was central to his 2006 campaign, and he has every intention

continued on p.18

of carrying it through. "I think it's critical to this community," he said, "and I don't think the importance of every public issue is determined by how many people attend particular meetings. As a council, we vote on 150 to 200 issues every meeting, yet only a few generate broad public discussion. It's absurd to suggest that means they're not important." Martinez supports SMD in part because it will likely mean more representation for a growing Hispanic population and in part because he just believes, with the continuing growth of the city, "It's time."

On the other hand, Council Member Sheryl Cole still opposes the idea and says she hasn't seen anything yet from the CRC that would persuade her to change her mind. "I still believe that it would lead to a dilution of African-American representation and that we'd have to go to 14 districts before we can draw a map that would ensure an African-American representative. And I don't think the voters will accept that large a change." Cole also believes the issue of member "accountability" to neighborhoods – and avoiding "balkanization" – is one that cuts both ways. "We may not be accountable to a particular geographic area," she said, "but all of us are accountable to the whole city," and at-large members remain accessible. "I'm instantly made aware of what people are most concerned about, whether it's Las Manitas or the animal shelter."

"I don't think the importance of every public issue is determined by how many people attend particular meetings." – Council Member Mike Martinez

Not the Fun Stuff

For or against SMDs, Martinez and Cole agree that one of the most frustrating aspects of their job is that people don't get involved at the beginning of a public process, only to yell "foul" at the end of it. With a laugh, Cole compared SMDs with her experience on the Waller Creek redevelopment project, where hundreds of people turned out for a recent town-hall meeting on the project possibilities – everything from intense mixed-use development to white-water rafting. Why do folks turn out for Waller Creek and not for charter revision? "Because it's fun," Cole replied, noting that few people have the patience or interest for redrawing lines on a map. In any event, she notes, the eventual council response as well as that of the citizens will largely depend on what the CRC recommends in January.

Garcia says that what sparse public discussion there has been thus far has been less concerned with ethnic or racial accountability than with geographic representation. "People haven't been asking for a 'black district' or a 'brown district'; they've been asking for geographic boundaries. … People are saying, if every council member is accountable on a given issue, in practice that means nobody is accountable. They want to be able to go to a representative and know that person is accountable for their area and has to pick up an issue that concerns them."

Entering the holidays, there's little public groundswell to make the CRC's work, pro or con, more urgent. Yet from this corner, much of the recurrent public restlessness over what is known as "the process" is, in fact, a consequence of citizens paying little or no attention to an issue until it's actually before council, by which time it may have gone through months or even years of discussion without urgent public interest – followed by sudden cries of, "Why weren't we told about this?"

Maybe if we assigned sponsored organisms – salamanders, vireos, live oaks, golden retrievers, pussy cats – to potential council districts, Austinites might begin paying more attention to the CRC. Unless that happens, as likely as not, most voters will show up next spring and mutter, "Nobody told me about this," and once again decide that for a full-grown city, a small-town government is just mighty fine. ■

The next scheduled meeting of the CRC is Wednesday, Dec. 12, 5pm, at the South Austin Senior Activity Center. People can also submit comments or get more info online at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter**.

BESIDE THE POINT

Onward Through the Borg

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Government's swollen corpus sways at a – how shall we put it? – deliberate pace. Unless it involves a brain-dead lady on life support or smoked-out Southern Cali Republican homeowners, honk your horn and drive slow through Bush country.

It's the same closer to home; unless it's an unauthorized administrative payment to a traveling tech conference (but think of the rewards!) or pushing a site plan for a shuttered mall uphill before more restrictive laws take effect (ditto the traffic!), it's slow going.

Yet it's hard to look at the lonely path of **board and commission reform** and not feel a little flabbergasted. The history: A B&C task force was convened by City Council – in 2001. The task force issued a report streamlining and standardizing such groups – in 2003. Now reforms come before council for approval – today, Nov. 29.

To be fair, it's not like the changes could have been banged out in one Red Bull-and-vodka lost weekend. The draft language stretches nearly 70 pages, a wholesale rework of the entire Boards and Commissions chapter of the **City Charter**. Like the original, it details the charge and composition of every group from the African American Resource Advisory Commission to Zoning and Platting – but it also lays out several notable changes and new guidelines. For incoming volunteer members, there will be required training in city government, ethics, conflict resolution, and more; a beefed-up passage covering potential conflicts of interest requires commissioners to affirm at each meeting that no potential conflict exists. (The prohibition making lobbyists ineligible to serve still stands – unless you're a former mayor, natch. Heeeyo!) Causing moderate heartburn are limits allowing no more than nine years (three three-year terms) of service, which could elbow out some of the most senior serving commissioners. (Personally, BTP sees the proposed limits as akin to laws protecting the elderly – not to mention the rest of us.)

Better late than never? Sure, but it's worth considering what's prioritized and what isn't, once it arrives in City Hall's rarefied atmosphere – e.g., reform and citizen-generated initiatives vs. commercial waivers, rebates, and incentives. As I traded e-mails recently with a local politico regarding the revisions, he tagged B&C reform as "an important goo-goo effort that disappeared into the maw of the City Hall Borg. Just as is happening to charter review." How long until the question of single-member districts is resolved: months or years?

Speaking of the charter, caustic council watcher **Paul Robbins** writes in regarding the "quaint, archaic document": namely, a provision under Chapter 5, "**Powers of the Council**," which declares it has no powers to "sell, convey, or lease all or any substantial part of the facilities of any municipally owned public utility." As the city rushes to deindustrialize the Green Water Treatment Plant and Seaholm to match the faux-postindustrial Second Street condo-holocaust, Robbins asks whether city designs on the plants are sufficiently "substantial." Good question.

GREEN IS AS GREEN DOES

Seaholm sale questions are scheduled for executive discussion today; additionally, the same firm lawyering the power plant will be given a contract for Green. After a two-week hiatus, that's one of a bunch of big agenda items. On consent are $125,000 and $200,000 grants to **UT's Austin Technology Incubator** program for biotech and wireless tech, because the university doesn't have enough money; a 10:30am presentation on the ATI program is also scheduled. Items from council include a review of the **Urban Renewal Agency/Austin Revitalization Authority**'s plans for East 11th and 12th streets, "including recommendations related to vertical mixed use, public parking, and affordable housing." Also fun is Item 42, directing City Manager Toby Futrell "to establish a **Waterfront Overlay Taskforce** to evaluate the current ordinance for inconsistencies and ambiguousness." (We all know how well that worked last time.)

Council also unfurls several green, building, and green-building items: a **Hike and Bike Trail enhancement plan** (Item 43), boosting and broadening **Austin Energy green building** participation and incentives (Item 44), calling for the "highest optimal levels of sustainability" in municipal construction projects (Item 45) and for city buildings (Item 46). Add in several Eastside speakers during citizens' communications and dozens of zoning items, and we're looking at another long evening.

Puncture the boredom at **dunbar@austinchronicle.com**.







afterward speaks to Wynn's voracity, with the building foreman describing the mayor as "extremely upset," "shouting," and "threatening." Wynn issued a press release Tuesday: "I want to confirm that, yes, I was angry about the illegality of what I witnessed, and I was even more angry about the complete disregard for Austin motorists. … Did I use some rough language? You bet I did – and if I offended the sensitivities of those construction workers, I'm sorry about that." – *W.D.*

The Urban Transportation Commission recently recommended lifting the restrictions on operating hours for **Downtown pedicabs**, a decision not likely to be met with enthusiasm from the staff of the Public Works Department. Capital and Roadkill pedicabs would like to take to the streets during rush hour. Public Works, which sets the pedicabs' hours of operation, says there were too many problems during a recent test run. If Public Works does not support the recommendation – which the UTC made to put more alternative transportation Downtown – the commission would like a subcommittee to meet with the interested pedicab operators to try to work out a compromise. – *Kimberly Reeves*

The **Austin Independent School District** released a report this week that takes a comprehensive look at the city's **middle schools**. Unlike other studies, this one looks beyond test scores to the underlying problems at struggling campuses – finding, among other things, that a clear correlation exists between Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills scores and family income – a connection that doesn't appear to exist at elementary schools, the report notes. The research also documents that African-American students are much more likely to be punished with disciplinary action (five Austin middle schools have suspended more than a third of their African-American students), as well as the importance of teacher retention, which accounted for 39% of the variation in math test scores. – *Michael May*

Austin students continue to perform better on the **National Assessment of Educational Progress** test than those from other urban districts across the nation. AISD is part of a U.S. Department of Education study of 10 urban districts, including large districts like Los Angeles and New York. Austin tied with Charlotte, N.C., for the highest scores on eighth-grade math, with 68% of the students scoring above basic proficiency. Also, Austin's English language learners did better at reading and math than similar students at large urban districts. But it's important to put the good news in perspective. Austin's students performed below the national average (but above the large urban district average) in areas like eighth-grade reading. Also, Austin's students have not shown any substantial improvement overall on the NAEP test since 2005, nor did the district make any improvement on the so-called achievement gap between white and minority students. – *M.M.*

In a study destined to shake our basic understanding of college life, UT psychologist Kim Fromme and Kent State University's Dan Neal have released a study showing that **college students drink** more on the night of big football games. Although some of you may have already noticed this phenomenon, this is the first study to monitor the drinking of a group of students through two full seasons of football, and some of the conclusions are a bit surprising: For one thing, the UT students drank more on the night of a big game – an average of three drinks – than they did on New Year's Eve or Halloween. And although men drank more whether the Longhorns played at home or not, that wasn't true for women. Socially active women drank more when the team was on the road, which may indicate men were more likely than women to attend tailgate parties. – *M.M.*

Austin's **October home sales** are down 15% from last year. The report, from the Austin Board of Realtors, indicates tightening credit markets are affecting the local market. The sales price is still 3% higher than last October, with a median price of $180,000. But sales fell to 1,772 homes last month, even though active listings have risen 19% to 9,431 homes. It's important to put the downturn in context, however – Austin's market was booming in 2005 and 2006. – *M.M.*

A survey released last week ranks Austin the sixth most **attractive city for job-seekers**. The report based on the survey's results – drafted by Human Capital Institute, which studies job markets – looks at what features make a city ideal for workers thinking of relocating. It notes that workers generally tend to stay put, but when they do move, factors such as cost of living, job opportunities, cleanliness, and safety come into play. Also, negative images have a stronger impact on decisions to relocate than positive ones, says the report, which also notes that people tend to think about cities abstractly but make decisions about relocating concretely. "Our study found that the brand, or perception of a city, is a critical factor in the decision-making process. … Cities and employers that understand, manage, and promote their brands will be best positioned to attract and keep knowledgeable workers of all ages," said Allan Schweyer, the report's author, in a press release. – *Justin Ward*

The holidays are here, along with a chance to pitch in. The Austin Police Department's **Blue Santa** program is looking for volunteers to gift-wrap the food and presents it's giving to needy families. Wrappers are needed at Blue Santa headquarters, 4101 S. Industrial Blvd. #260, from noon to 9pm through Dec. 8 (except 9am-1pm on Saturdays). Groups of 10 or more should call 974-4900 or e-mail **bluesanta@ci.austin.tx.us** in advance; more details are at **www.bluesanta.org**. The **Trail of Lights** also needs helpers. The sparkling holiday tradition is gearing up for its grand opening Dec. 9, and the folks at the Parks & Recreation Department putting it on are looking for assistance. Due to the large number of volunteers needed to operate the Trail of Lights – 100 each night – PARD's looking to enlist groups of 25 and more from local employers and organizations. See more info at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/volunteers.htm**. – *W.D.*

Doing good never tasted so good, thanks to a new **sandwich delivery** service by nonprofit **Caritas of Austin**. The organization kicked off its new Do Good Deli with a luncheon on Monday. Caritas is slinging sandwiches to raise money for its work with refugees, the homeless, and the working poor. The service, aimed at catering corporate functions, is available in the Downtown area; $20 minimum on all orders. More info at **www.dogooddeli.com**. – *J.W.*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

State Rep. **Mike Krusee**, R-Round Rock, announced Tuesday that he will not run for re-election in 2008. The 48-year-old Krusee has represented District 52, which covers the southeastern half of Williamson County, since 1993. Thus far, his only announced opponent for 2008 had been Democrat Diana Maldonado. While Krusee's focus was transportation, Maldonado has said her campaign – and her candidacy – would focus more heavily on education. "I'm excited because this is an opportunity to have a change in leadership, which is what our community needs and what our districts need," Maldonado said. "Having worked at the local level, I know what it takes to represent this district. My issues will be education, of course, but also answering the needs of the hardworking families in our district on issues such as home affordability, keeping our neighborhoods safe, and getting our kids to college. Those are all important issues in this district." Krusee had come under fire in some corners for his support of toll roads and the Trans-Texas Corridor and from others for standing up to Speaker of the House Tom Craddick during last spring's power struggle at the Lege. – *Lee Nichols*

The Lone Star Sierra Club is prodding Dallas utility TXU, now doing business as Luminant, to solidify its commitment to cancel applications to build eight **new coal-fired power plants** – made as part of its private-equity buyout deal earlier this year – by changing the permits' dismissal status at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to dismissed "with prejudice" as opposed to "without prejudice," as it stands now, which makes it easier to refile them, the Sierra Club says. TXU also recently applied to become part of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a group of corporations calling for mandatory greenhouse-gas regulations. If accepted, it would join fellow mega-utility NRG Energy Inc. NRG and TXU operate the two worst greenhouse-gas polluting power plants in the state, dually ranked numbers 45 and 50 globally for CO_2 pollution. – *Daniel Mottola*

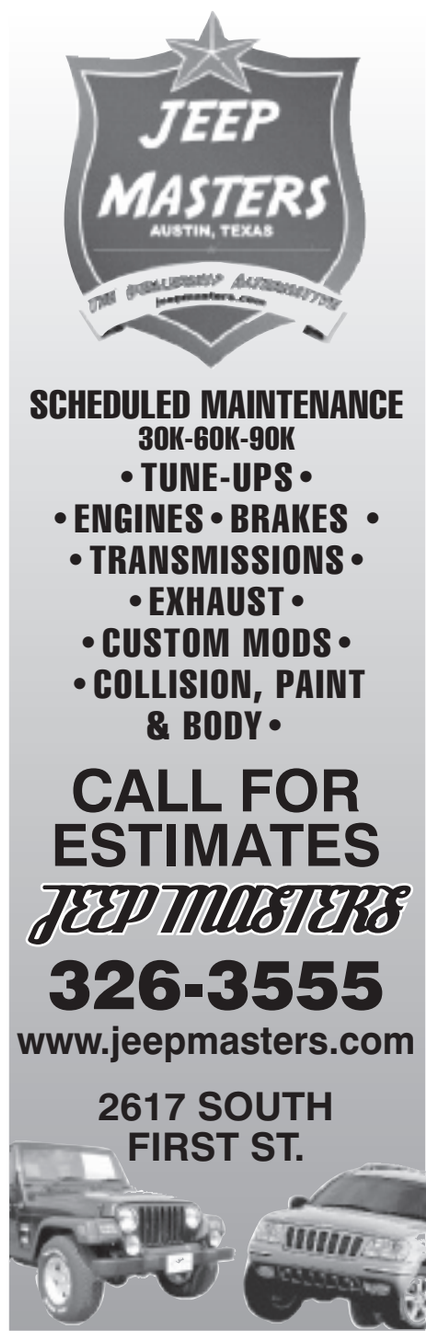
In other climate-change news, six Midwestern states and one Canadian province just signed the **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord**, a regional multisector cap-and-trade program. And Rainforest Action Network reports thousands turned out in more than 50 cities nationwide last Friday to protest **Citi** and **Bank of America**'s investments in new coal-fired power plants and dirty coal extraction methods such as mountaintop-removal coal mining. – *D.M.*

Listen up, **Louisiana hurricane evacuees**. If you own a home back home, hopefully you've already gotten in on the Road Home, the state-run program that administers Katrina and Rita federal rebuilding money. If you haven't, however, there's still a little time. The deadline for signing up for a required appointment with a housing adviser is Dec. 1. According to the Road Home's website (**www.road2la.org**), appointments are available at 11 Housing Assistance Centers in Louisiana and Houston or by calling 888/762-3252 and completing an application through the mail. Road Home participants are supposed to receive up to $150,000 in compensation, although the program's funding capabilities have been in question. – *Cheryl Smith*

It isn't just Republicans and Democrats facing a crowded field of presidential contenders: The **Green Party** currently has seven candidates around the nation hoping they'll be the first eco-commander in chief. One of the highest-profile names in their race, Cynthia McKinney, former Democratic U.S. representative of Georgia, will be in Austin on Wednesday, Dec. 5, attending a fundraising event, including a silent auction and live music, hosted at Ruta Maya Coffee House by the Travis Co. Green Party. McKinney switched party affiliation in October, after losing a primary challenge in 2006 to Henry "Hank" Johnson Jr. Prior to that, she had a reputation as a pugnacious fighter for civil and human rights but also gained notoriety for punching a U.S. Capitol police officer in the chest. – *R.W.*

It appears **New Jersey** is poised to abolish the **death penalty**. The state has eight men on death row but has not executed an inmate since 1963, reports *The New York Times*. A bill that would abolish capital punishment was approved by the state Senate Judiciary Committee in the spring, and the state assembly is scheduled to consider a nearly identical measure on Dec. 6. Gov. Jon Corzine, a death penalty foe, has said he will sign the measure into law if it reaches his desk. "It would be a historic measure," Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, told the *Times*. "I think it is part of this bigger picture where the death penalty is on the defensive." – *Jordan Smith*





AISD Scrambles for Another Bond Election

Less than four years after its last bond issue, the **Austin Independent School District** is considering another **bond election** for next May that could mean up to $200 million in what the district describes as new urgent funding for local schools. In 2004, Austin voters approved $519 million in school bonds, but according to AISD facilities Executive Director **Paul Turner**, changing circumstances in the district demand an interim issue. "If it's something that can wait, we'll put it in the parking lot until next time," said Turner. "We're looking at things that require immediate attention."

Since October, the 21-member volunteer **Citizens' 2008 Bond Advisory Committee** has been considering proposed projects, mostly driven by essential repairs, swelling student numbers, and changing curriculum requirements. If successful, this bond issue could solve immediate demands and push back the next major issue from its currently proposed date of 2010 by two years. This time, the committee is only looking at programs it classifies as sufficiently urgent not to be postponed. "The way we're approaching this is: What are the consequences of us not making a decision?" said committee tri-Chair **Geronimo Rodriguez**.

The largest proposal is the potential construction of additional elementary schools and perhaps a junior high to alleviate significant overcrowding. Several schools have been evaluated as being over 125% of capacity, although the committee is still waiting for a final demographer's report, expected in early December. "There's population growth and population movement," said tri-Chair **Mark Curry**, "so there's a need to consider where you might build those schools, so you can reset boundaries and balance that load."

Some of that need for new schools could be offset by adding classrooms and staff to existing schools, and recent curriculum changes have created an immediate demand for science labs. Starting with the 2007 freshman class, Texas high school students are required to take four years of math and science to graduate, and some of the money could go for extra lab space. New classroom construction costs could total more than $100 million, but tri-Chair **Amy Wong Mok** stressed that the need is immediate. For example, **Linder Elementary**, designed for 600 students, now houses more than 900 and starts serving lunch at 10am to fit them all in. "Those children can't wait any longer, because they'll be in high school by the next bond," she said.

Extra upfront cash could also be requested to allow new facilities to integrate green-building techniques, including innovative heating and cooling systems, thereby cutting energy consumption long-term. The committee is considering investing in capacitors for the electrical system (which could save the district more than $1 million annually in utility bills), as well as the continuing replacement of the aging bus fleet for less polluting options. "There's a big discussion there, judging hybrids against reduced-emission diesel," said Rodriguez.

One big-ticket item that may not seem as urgent as the mandated classroom construction projects is a new districtwide performing-arts center for high school and junior high students. In 2004, residents voted 2-to-1 to approve $7.7 million for a similar project on or near the **McCallum High** campus, but that project was dependent on matching private funds that never materialized. According to Curry, the committee considers the 2004 vote a sign the community backs the concept, but the old bond proposal has expired – so the committee negotiation process resumed from the beginning. "We're discussing the need for a performing-art center against where to put it," said Rodriguez.



Long Center for the Performing Arts

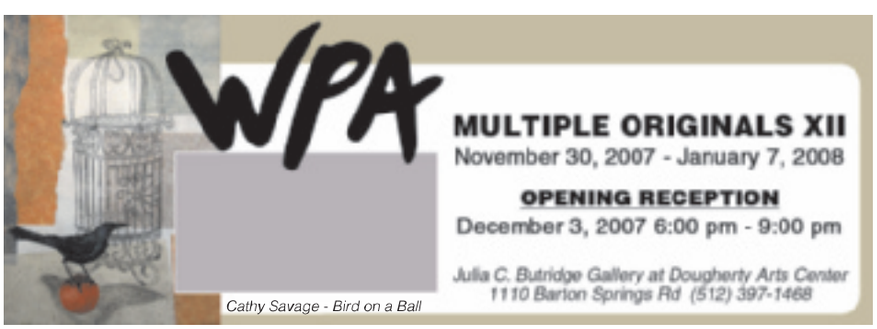
JOHN ANDERSON

One alternative under consideration is to house the PAC at the new **Long Center for the Performing Arts**, under construction on Riverside. Proposals for the center originally included the 700-seat Topfer Theatre, but this plan was put on hold due to funding shortfalls. The committee is considering funding a mixed-use space available to both AISD and the center, and Long Center management welcomed the idea. "We're standing here with open arms should AISD decide we're the right choice," Long Center Executive Director **Reynolds Redd Jr.** said.

The next big step is the demographer's report, due Dec. 1. This will give the committee exact student numbers from which they can gauge the pressure on classroom capacity. They plan to make their recommendations to the AISD board of trustees by Jan. 28, which should allow for further public consultation. To reach the May ballot, the board must adopt the proposals by March 7. The citizens' committee will be accepting any additional public proposals for projects until Dec. 4: Urgent proposals might be added, while those of a lower priority will be held over until the next major election. "The one procedural issue we all understand is that we're on a compressed time schedule," said Rodriguez, "but we want to make sure that we are as transparent and accountable and open as possible." – *Richard Whittaker*

THE AISD BOND PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

- Dec. 1: Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee receives demographer's report
- Dec. 4: Deadline for additional public proposals to CBAC
- Jan. 10 and 15: Public forums on bond proposal
- Jan. 28: CBAC bond recommendations to AISD board
- March 7: Deadline for board adoption of bond proposals
- May 10: Texas uniform election date







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	2008 Mazda CX-9	2008 Honda Pilot	2008 Toyota Highlander	2008 Acura MDX
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Torque, lb-ft	**270 @ 4250 rpm**	240 @ 4500 rpm	248 @ 4700 rpm	275 @ 5000 rpm
Automatic Transmission	**6-speed w/ manual mode**	5-speed	5-speed	5-speed w/ manual mode
Roll Stability Control	**Standard**	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Side-Impact Air Curtains	**Standard w/** rollover protection	Standard w/ rollover protection	Standard w/ rollover protection	Standard w/ rollover protection
Dynamic Stability Control	**Standard**	Standard	Standard	Standard
Cargo Space (behind 3rd row, cu ft)	**17.2**	15.9	10.3	N/A
Cargo Space (3rd row folded, cu ft)	**48.4**	47.6	42.3	N/A
Maximum Cargo Space (2nd & 3rd row folded, cu ft)	**100.7**	87.6	95.4	83.5
2nd-Row Legroom (in)	**39.8**	37.4	38.3	38.7
3rd-Row Legroom (in)	**32.4**	30.2	29.9	29.1
Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) System	**Available (Grand Touring)**	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Bluetooth® Handsfree Phone Capability	**Standard (Touring & Grand Touring)**	Not Available	Available	Standard
Rain-Sensing Windshield Wipers	**Standard (Grand Touring)**	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Advanced Keyless Entry & Start System	**Standard (Grand Touring)**	Not Available	Standard (Limited)	Not Available

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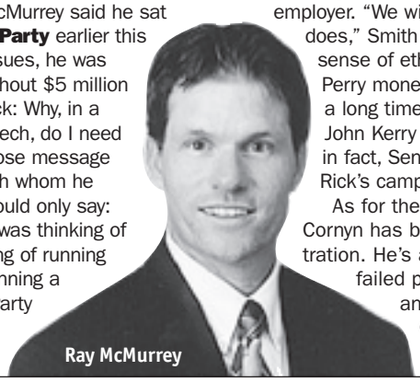
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McMurrey Challenges Noriega From the Left

After millionaire trial lawyer **Mikal Watts** dropped his Democratic candidacy for the **U.S. Senate**, Houston state Rep. **Rick Noriega** probably began gearing up for attacks from the right as he looked ahead to challenging Republican **John Cornyn** for his position as Texas' junior U.S. senator. Now he'll have to put those preparations on hold while he fends off an attack from his left. Corpus Christi high school social-studies teacher **Ray McMurrey** announced his candidacy Nov. 20 in Austin for the Democratic nomination, saying he wants to be the Texan **Paul Wellstone** and "to re-establish the integrity of what I teach and what American democracy is about and who American democracy should serve."

McMurrey said one of his students asked him, "Don't you have to be rich to run for the United States Senate?" "I want you to help me break the political caste system of who gets to lead in this great country," McMurrey said at a kick-off press conference at the East Austin home of activists **D'Ann Johnson** and **Alan Pogue** (the former is McMurrey's stepmother; the latter often contributes photos to the *Chronicle*).

He then attacked the Democratic Party establishment as "a wholly owned subsidiary" of corporate America. McMurrey said he sat down with leaders of the **Texas Democratic Party** earlier this month, and instead of getting asked about issues, he was only questioned on how he planned to run without $5 million in campaign funds. "I turned the question back: Why, in a democracy, with free information and free speech, do I need $5 million to convince the voters of Texas whose message is the best?" (McMurrey would not specify with whom he had talked. TDP spokesman **Hector Nieto** would only say: "He met with party staff when we learned he was thinking of running. We always encourage anybody thinking of running to meet with us [to discuss the logistics of running a statewide campaign]. The Texas Democratic Party will never take sides in a contested primary – that's for the voters to decide.")


Ray McMurrey

McMurrey then answered the obvious question: Why is he throwing his hat in the ring now, after it appeared Noriega had been anointed as the 2008 challenger to Cornyn?

Although he praised Noriega for having "a fine record in the Legislature on social issues," McMurrey asked, "Why is the Democratic establishment endorsing my opponent, a big energy, natural gas, fossil fuels representative, while you are asked to pay $3 a gallon for gasoline?" Noriega is on leave from his employment as a marketing manager with **CenterPoint Energy Inc.**, which is a spin-off company of **Reliant Energy**. In the mid-Nineties, Noriega was a lobbyist for Reliant, then known as **Houston Lighting & Power**.

McMurrey also questioned the fact that Noriega has received $7,000 in campaign contributions since 2006 from **Bob Perry**, the Houston businessman who funded the **Swift Boat Veterans for Truth** attacks on **John Kerry** in 2004, and said he will accept no lobbyist money. In response, Noriega spokesman **Andrew Dupuy** cited a recent article in the *Texas Weekly* political newsletter, in which consumer advocate **Tom "Smitty" Smith** of **Public Citizen** praised Noriega for recusing himself from votes affecting his employer. "We wish that more people would do what Rick does," Smith is quoted as saying. "He's got real good sense of ethics and responsibilities." Regarding the Perry money, "He's been getting this thrown at him for a long time, but Rick sat down with John Kerry, and John Kerry of all people wasn't bothered by that, and in fact, Senator Kerry is actually on board supporting Rick's campaign."

As for the ultimate target, McMurrey said, "Mr. Cornyn has been a rubber stamp to the Bush administration. He's authorized what I consider a multitude of failed policies that have wrecked this economy and have wrecked the image of this nation. Other countries don't need to like us, but they need to respect us." – *Lee Nichols*

A PERFECT STORM OF WINGNUTTERY

John Zogby is polling for **Ron Paul** supporter and conspiracy-theorist entrepreneur **Alex Jones**, which makes perfect sense when you think about it. As the only Republican candidate with a – *gasp* – reality-based foreign-policy platform (i.e., getting us the hell outta Iraq), Paul has made waves. But the rest of his platform is two clicks away (or fewer) from Jones' paranoiac bloviation. The following may sound like a rambling suited for your next survivalist potluck, but no – it's there in Paul's "On the Issues" page:

@CHRONIC

"So called free trade deals and world governmental organizations … are a threat to our independence as a nation. They transfer power from our government to unelected foreign elites." Bravo to this synchronicity – what a rich, and heretofore untapped (to my knowledge), cross-demographic slice of crazy!

But wait – there's more!

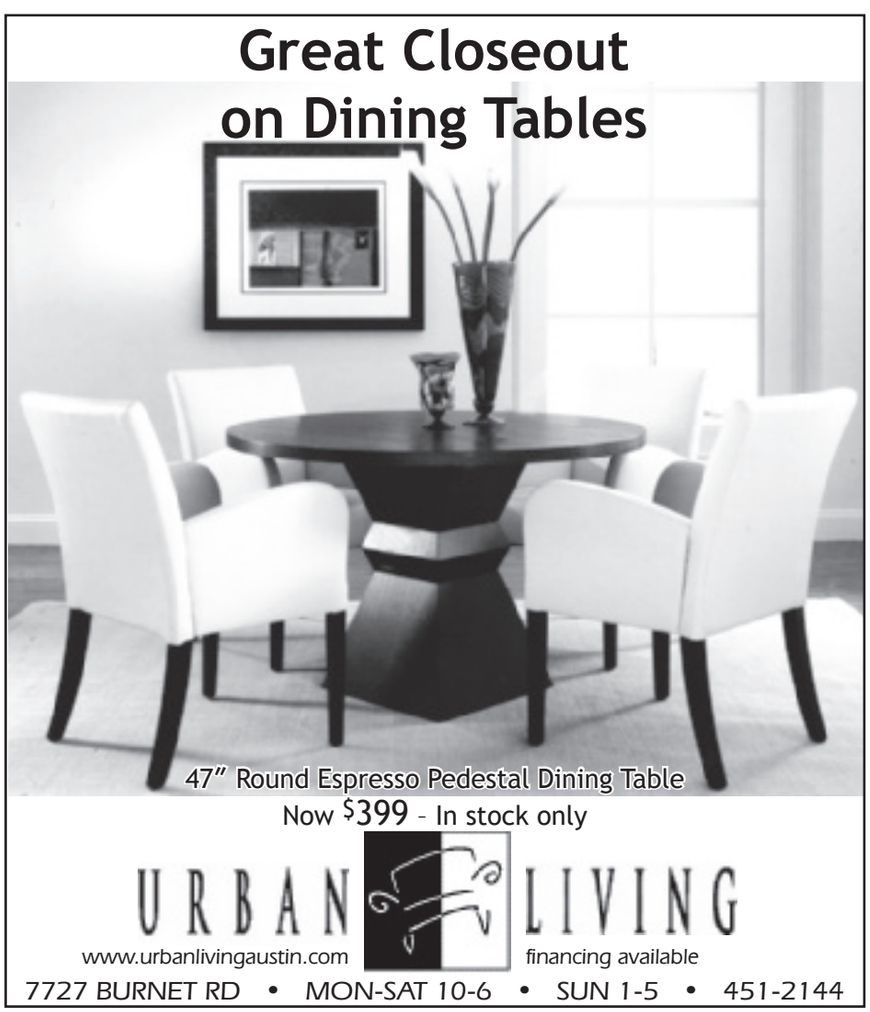
Apparently Jones is miffed that the results he expected to purchase from Zogby were to his histrionic liking. Cue the WATB:

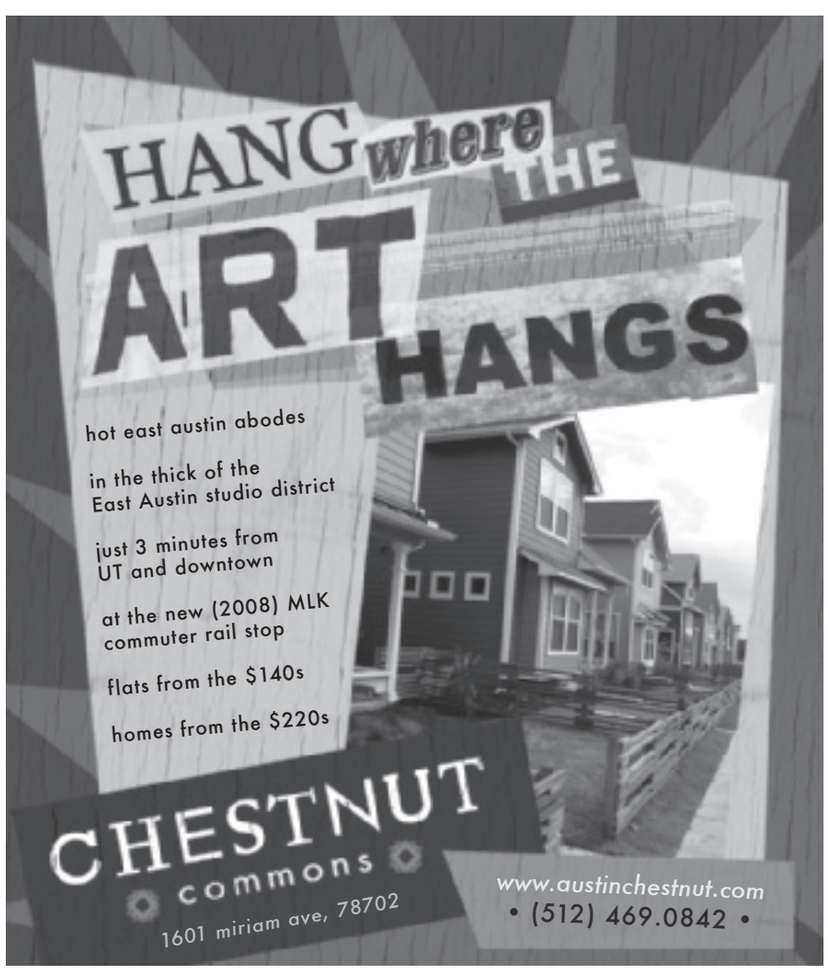
"In their press release about the results of a new telephone poll, Zogby chose to marginalize Ron Paul by highlighting a demographic that was won by **Rudy Giuliani**, while largely ignoring the fact that the Texas congressman completely dominated almost every other aspect of the poll."

Caveat emptor.

– *Wells Dunbar*

Posted Wednesday, Nov. 21





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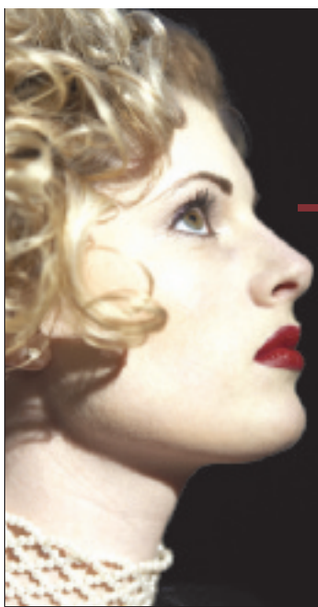
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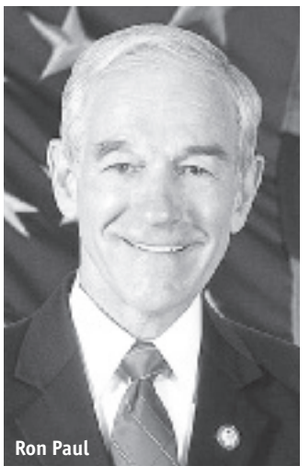
Austin Loves Paul

"[Rudy] Giuliani is probably the most evil person in the race. … He's a frightening, fascist warmonger."

That isn't the latest bulletin from Dennis Kucinich 2008 or from the desk of Howard Dean. It's the voice of a recent, local **Ron Paul** convert and newly minted Republican voter. Ten years ago, Jamie (she declines to provide her last name) worked "in liberal politics, let's just leave it at that." Now she's marching the street, "Ron Paul Revolution" sign in hand, cheering on the only candidate she thinks can succeed in saving the country. But does Paul's idiosyncratic blend of activist spirit, libertarian leanings, and Republican affiliation really carry weight across the political spectrum?

Out of 1,000-plus national **Ron Paul Meetups**, Austin's is the largest, and its organizer, **Paul Davis**, thinks converted Dems are emigrating directly from **Barack Obama** and **Hillary Clinton**, based upon their positions on the Iraq war. "They … are just against the way the Bush regime has gone about it," Davis says. "Both have left war with Iran 'on the table,' and that does not sit well with the people who have talked with me."

At a Ron Paul "Freedom March" earlier this month, more than one pickup truck with a "Texas Democrat" sticker honked in support of the marchers. Paul's lively rebukes of Republican candidates have made for some great YouTube footage, and his ardent opposition to the USA PATRIOT Act and the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay certainly endear him to liberals. But other issues also seem to be fueling Paul's support.


Ron Paul

Pam Farley has been convinced to vote for her first Republican presidential candidate "due to the principled consistency of his congressional voting record and his integrity, especially when discussing America's economic condition." Paul's "liberal" supporters tend to respect Ohio Democratic Rep. Kucinich, though they resist any call for a weapons ban or enlarging the government's social services – which suggests a fairly constricted variety of "liberalism." Farley and others also see an inconsistency in the amount of taxes the government collects in relation to the assistance it is able to deliver – so, like most of Paul's supporters, they view the Katrina aftermath as an institutional failure rather than administrative incompetence.

Anson Chi quit his job in Dallas to spend more time in Austin drumming up support for Paul. Chi is a longtime liberal, having voted for Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and eventually Ralph Nader in 2004. "To be honest and brutally frank, I've got a deep disdain for Republicans," he admits. "But guess what. If I'm able to support Ron Paul … and change my views, that says a lot." What it says is that the wildly divergent personalities that support Paul – Goldwater-style Republicans, libertarians, and folks with pet constitutional issues (e.g., no income tax) – are being joined, at least in some numbers, by supporters from the left. Whether that unstable alliance can translate into more than another quixotic, Nader-like political meteor trail remains to be seen, beginning in New Hampshire in January. But for the moment, Paul's mainstream GOP opponents, like the major news media, just don't know what to make of him. – *Jacob Cottingham*

For more info, see **www.ronpaulaustin.com**.

MORE TROUBLE ON SECOND STREET

Members of the first wave of retail tenants in the **2nd Street District** were nicknamed pioneers. Now some are quitting frontier life, replaced by a second rush of stores. Hot on the heels of DJ culture store **Gomi** terminating its lease after a dispute about estimated utility bills (see "Second Street Snafu Clarification," Nov. 23), **Sage Salon** moved back to its original location on 42nd Street over the weekend. Property managers **Urban Partners** said Ducati motorbike dealership **Moto Austin** is negotiating an "exit strategy" from its lease, while management at **Octane** boutique confirmed the store will close and relocate to Dallas in the new year. Speaking confidentially, other tenants are concerned that there's no interest in keeping them in business and that the lack of parking in the area makes life as a retailer virtually impossible. One shop owner said, rather than matters improving, the Thanksgiving holiday and **Black Friday** were actually the worst weekend since opening.

Speaking for Urban Partners, leasing agent **Frank Seely** stressed that some firms are thriving. **Milk + Honey** day spa is expanding to take more than half of the premises formerly occupied by shoe store **Lucky Soles**. Incoming tenants include **Málaga Tapas & Bar**, which is relocating from Fourth Street, and several other leases are being negotiated with local, national, and start-up retailers and restaurants. Speaking for district landlords **AMLI Austin Retail**, development manager **Craig Brockman** said, "Every vacant space in the district is being negotiated right now," and he expects the area to be completely leased out by early next year.

There is already one big new tenant: Skiwear store **St. Bernard Sports** opened Nov. 16 and will hold a grand-opening party Nov. 29. However, the high-end activewear store is a major change from the stated intention of Urban Partners. Company President **Robert Bagwell** said the survival of retail in the district depends upon a critical mass of tenants and doorways and that Urban Partners wants a large number of local vendors and small chains, rather than a handful of large retailers. While the average district retail tenant only rents 1,200 to 2,200 square feet, St. Bernard takes up 8,550 square feet on the north side of **AMLI on Second**, a vertical mixed-use residential/retail development between Guadalupe and San Antonio – shown on the original plans as broken up for multiple tenants. – *Richard Whittaker*





HATE CRIMES IN TEXAS: A BREAKDOWN

Austin came in fourth among Texas cities in number of **hate crimes** reported in 2006, according to a just-released **FBI** compilation that canvassed agencies representing 85% of the nation's population. Documented are 7,722 criminal incidents involving 9,080 offenses resulting from bias against race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability. Of 5,449 "crimes against persons," intimidation accounted for 46% of hate crimes, simple assault 32%, and aggravated assault 21.6%. Three murders and six rapes are reported. "Crimes against property," mostly vandalism, account for 3,593 offenses.

The report lists offenders as 58.6% white, 20.6% black, 12.9% race unknown, and the rest as other races. As a caveat, the report discourages "data users," like media and tourism agencies, from relying on numbers alone: "Until data users examine all the variables that affect crime … they can make no meaningful comparisons." – *Patricia J. Ruland*

MOTIVES FOR REPORTED HATE CRIMES IN TEXAS CITIES

	Race	Sexual Orientation	Ethnicity	Religion	Disability
Dallas	13	13	8	5	0
San Antonio	13	9	4	2	0
Houston	8	4	7	1	0
Austin	8	2	2	1	0

FBI hate crimes report: **www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2006/index.html**

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.72.

FRIDAY 30

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents Kathleen Cleaver on the government's repression of the Black Panthers and the contemporary lessons to be drawn. *2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS CONFERENCE – two days of workshops, seminars, and panels on the benefits of supporting women's entrepreneurship in developing countries. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 877/944-3003. $130 ($75, one day).* **www.flowidealism.org/EWE.html**.

GREEN DRINKS AUSTIN Enviromentality Inc.'s Brandi Clark speaks on sustainable intentional communities for this month's happy hour, open to anyone working in environmental fields or sustainable endeavors. *5:30-7:30pm. Opal Divine's, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free.* **www.greendrinksaustin.blogspot.com**.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN THE POST-9/11 U.S. UT School of Law professor Derek Jinks leads the final workshop in the Continuing Legal Education Program hosted by the ACLU. *Noon-1:30pm. Carmelo's Restaurant, 504 E. Fifth. 478-7300 x104. $30 (includes lunch).* **kskotak@aclutx.org**.

TOWN LAKE TRAIL FUNDRAISER Join Mayor Will Wynn, LBJ's daughter Lynda Robb, and others as they celebrate the Town Lake Trail. Enjoy free food, music, and a booksigning for Jen Ohlson's *Every Town Needs a Trail*. *6:30pm. RunTex, 422 W. Riverside.* **www.everytownneedsatrail.com**.

SATURDAY 01

CAMPUS ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT TO END THE OCCUPATIONS Campus anti-war group CAMEO hosts a talk from a war veteran who will discuss his experiences and his opposition to the war in Iraq. *3pm. UT campus, CMA room 3.112. Free.*

KENTUCKY FRIED CRUELTY PROTEST Speak out against KFC's treatment of animals. *11am-1pm. KFC, 2224 E. Riverside. 351-8032.* **sthomas4242@yahoo.com**.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE *7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 836-8560. Free.*

SUNDAY 02

THANKS, NOKOA, FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE Honor the long-running progressive weekly with an open house featuring wine and treats. *4-7pm. Lyons Gardens Senior Center, 2720 Lyons. $20-30 suggested donation ($10, students/seniors).*

WEDNESDAY 05

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB City Council Member Mike Martinez presents: Is Now the Time for Single-Member Districts? *7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, sixth floor. $15 (members/first-time guests).* **www.mbcaustin.org**.

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

SWEATFREE COMMUNITIES

If you wish there was something you could do about some of the worst abuses of corporate globalization, check out a fast-spreading grassroots movement called SweatFree Communities.

Its concept is simple: While one shopper can't make a dent in the ethics of global manufacturers, each of us can have an impact if we team up as citizens to harness the purchasing power of our city and county governments, getting them to reject products made with sweatshop labor. We often forget that the biggest consumer in most places is local government, which buys huge quantities of uniforms, computers, office furniture, and such from various corporations. We can say to these vendors: No public dollars for sweatshop goods.

In Austin, City Council recently voted unanimously to join about 170 other localities across the country in the SweatFree network. These cities, school districts, and other public entities have committed to buy only from contractors and subcontractors who do not engage in such sweatshop abuses as the use of child labor, poverty wages, toxic workplaces, etc.

To enforce the "no sweat" commitment, the consortium sends independent monitors directly to the factories for periodic, unannounced reviews of labor conditions. The shared cost is minimal – Austin's share, for example, is only about $17,000 a year. In turn, the assurance the city's purchases reflect our people's sense of justice is priceless.

SweatFree Communities was founded in 2003 and is supported by a wide range of churches, student organizations, unions, advocacy groups, and community leaders. The notion is there is power in numbers – with each new community that signs on, new strength is added to change industry practices … and end the shame of sweatshop labor.

To learn more, call 207/262-7277 or go to **www.sweatfree.org**.

BIG-SPENDING GEORGE

George W. likes to pose as the Texas president – in the rough-hewn, rancher model of Lyndon Johnson.

George isn't actually a Texan, however. He was born in Connecticut, went to an East Coast prep school and Ivy League colleges, and he summered in Kennebunkport, Maine, at his family's oceanfront estate. Nor is he a rancher, as Lyndon was. Yes, George bought a ranchette to boost his cowboy image when he decided to run for president, but this "cowboy" has no cattle and is even afraid of horses – that's not quite a "tall-in-the-saddle" president like Johnson.

Yet, there is one area where George W. has stood taller than the real Texas president: federal spending. LBJ was derided as a big-spending liberal, but he was tightfisted compared to Bush. While George is now trying to pretend he's a small-government fiscal conservative, federal spending in his administration has grown by 5.3% a year, nearly a full point higher than the rate of increase in the Johnson years, and more than double the annual spending growth under Democrats Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

Of course, the Bush White House takes no responsibility for anything negative, so it's now trying to blame the billions of dollars that it's dumping into his "war on terrorism" for distorting Bush's spending numbers (maybe the Bushites don't remember that LBJ had a war to finance, too, since so few of them actually served in it). But Bush spending is not just about his mismanaged wars. He has also hiked budgets in most agencies, with a disproportionate share of the increases going to privatization of government, corporate welfare, and right-wing ideological boondoggles.

So, now that we hear free-spending George W. suddenly posing as Mr. Frugal and demanding Congress hold the line on spending, remember that no president has spent more of your tax dollars and gotten so little for it as he has.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – *visit* **www.jimhightower.com**.

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REEFER MADNESS

Hemp Farmers to DEA: Butt Out

Rest assured, the **Drug Enforcement Agency** is fair. Seriously. At least when it comes to deciding whether to allow individuals to cultivate **industrial hemp**, as two farmers from North Dakota – **Dave Monson** (also a veteran Republican state lawmaker) and **Wayne Hauge** (also a certified public accountant) – are seeking to do. At least that's the assertion offered by U.S. Department of Justice lawyer Wendy Ertmer, representing the DEA at a federal court hearing Nov. 14 in Bismarck, where she insisted before U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland that the agency's "administrative process" for granting the permits to grow the crop is, in fact, "not futile."

Of course that doesn't mean the judge was particularly impressed by that assurance. Indeed, Monson and Hauge were in court to defend their right to seek a declaratory judgment telling the DEA to butt out of their plans to grow the nonnarcotic hemp plant – the cousin of that evil weed marijuana – in compliance with new state law regulating the cultivation of the environmentally friendly rotation crop. The DEA says industrial hemp is nothing more than dope and that the agency has the right, under the federal Controlled Substances Act, to enforce marijuana prohibition and decide when, where, and if an individual is allowed to grow any form of the plant *Cannabis sativa L*. (See "Reefer Madness," Aug. 24). The judge heard arguments from both sides and now must decide whether to grant the DEA's motion for dismissal. In part, Ertmer's argument relies on the idea that the farmers don't have standing to ask the court to intervene based on the notion that the DEA has not yet decided whether to approve the applications each farmer filed in February. Notably, the DEA hasn't dropped the slightest hint of when it might decide – a pretty big deal given that the permits must be renewed annually (along with a nonrefundable $2,000-plus fee). Moreover, the agency's track record doesn't exactly inspire confidence: Still pending before the narcos is a 1999 application from **North Dakota State University** to grow a research crop. Given the totality of circumstances, the court didn't appear to buy Ertmer's vision of fairness: "I don't see any realistic prospect that [Monson and Hauge] are ever going to be issued a license," Judge Hovland told Ertmer. "It doesn't matter what … responses they provide to the DEA," he continued. "The DEA is going to be hard-pressed to grant a license in this case, probably the first case ever in the country where they've granted a license to a private grower of industrial hemp, so … I mean, I think we can all sit here and agree that it ain't going to happen."

While the DEA may have lost its argument on standing, the farmers aren't completely out of the woods in their bid to knock the DEA out of the hemp-growing loop. At the core is whether the federal law can be interpreted to exempt hemp from the definition of marijuana. North Dakota is the first state in the union to enact a hemp-farming statute, allowing qualified farmers to receive a state license to grow the crop. Farmers have their applications vetted by the state's agricultural department and must satisfy several requirements: They must pass a criminal background check; agree to use only seeds that contain less than 0.3% tetrahydracannibinol, or THC; must provide geo-positioning coordinates for their hemp fields; and must agree to random, unannounced inspections. The law is patterned after the successful **1997 Canadian hemp law**, which kick-started widespread cultivation – much of which, ironically, is imported to the U.S. in the form of seed and oil and turned into various consumer products; it's an industry that is growing annually by double digits. To the high plains farmers, cultivating industrial hemp is no more controversial than growing soybeans, canola, or wheat – but is far more promising as a cash crop. As it stands, the U.S. is the only developed country without an established hemp crop. (Ironically, much of the Canadian hemp is grown in Manitoba, just 12 miles north of Monson's eastern North Dakota farm.)

To the DEA, the legal questions before the court are clear. Marijuana is marijuana, even if it is nonnarcotic hemp. As Ertmer argued in court earlier this month, "The definition of marijuana is clear on its face. It doesn't matter that North Dakota has given plaintiffs a license [to cultivate] what the [state] statute refers to as industrial hemp. It's still marijuana for purposes of federal law." Ertmer concedes that federal law exempts from regulation the mature stalks, fiber, oil, and seed of the cannabis plant but says that while the exemptions "may allow certain plant components to be imported into the United States," it doesn't "change the fact that Congress did regulate the growing marijuana plant. That Congress chose not to regulate certain potentially more innocuous components of the plant says nothing about Congress' intent to regulate the entire plant." Ertmer said in similar cases – notably involving hemp cultivation on South Dakota's **Pine Ridge Reservation** by members of the **Lakota Nation** – the courts have not found that hemp is an exempt subset of cannabis when it comes to cultivation. Monson and Hauge's lawyer, Joseph Sandler, disagreed, noting a distinct difference between the North Dakota case and any other. Here, he said, the state has defined a strict set of rules that apply to cultivation – rules that ensure only nonnarcotic hemp is grown and only the exempt portions of the plant would ever make it into the marketplace. "We submit [that given the] unique nature of this state regulatory regime … federal regulation of drug marijuana cannot be extended so far as to cover the [intrastate] cultivation of industrial hemp under this state regime," Sandler argued.


SCOTT T. SAMSON

Dave Monson

The judge stayed a motion filed by Monson and Hauge seeking resolution of the case in their favor and "promised" to decide before month's end whether to grant the DEA's motion to dismiss. – *Jordan Smith*

See this column at **austinchronicle.com** *for a transcript of the court hearing.*

JEFFS SENTENCED FOR BEING RAPE ACCOMPLICE

Polygamist prophet **Warren Jeffs**, leader of the Mormon breakaway sect the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, has been sentenced to two consecutive terms of five years to life behind bars for acting as an accomplice to rape in connection with his arranging and officiating the marriage of a 14-year-old and her 19-year-old cousin.

Jeffs was convicted in a Utah court on Sept. 25. The child bride, **Elissa Wall**, now 21, testified that she pleaded with relatives to call off the arranged wedding to her cousin **Allen Steed** to no avail; Jeffs presided over the wedding in 2001 inside a Nevada motel room. Wall testified in court that she was cajoled into saying, "I do," and that Steed forced her to consummate the relationship a month later. A key part to FLDS life is arranged, polygamist marriage (aka "celestial marriage") – adherents believe a man needs at least three wives to be exalted into heaven, and only those wives that "stay sweet" and remain obedient will be allowed to tag along for that final ride.

Jeffs now faces similar charges in Arizona, for sexual misconduct and incest, and may be extradited there within six months, reports *The Arizona Republic*. Meanwhile, he remains in a Utah prison while his lawyer, Walter Bugden, prepares an appeal. Bugden told *The Salt Lake Tribune* it is his client's support of arranged marriage that actually led to the rape charge: "It is the wrong charge; he never should have faced this charge; it's unfair," he told the daily. "Mr. Jeffs' encouraging the couple to stay together when they had marital difficulties does not constitute accomplice to rape."

Judge James Shumate sentenced Jeffs to the two consecutive sentences on Nov. 20, crediting him with 15 months for time already served. How long Jeffs will actually remain behind bars is unclear; ultimately, a Utah parole board will make that decision. – *J.S.*





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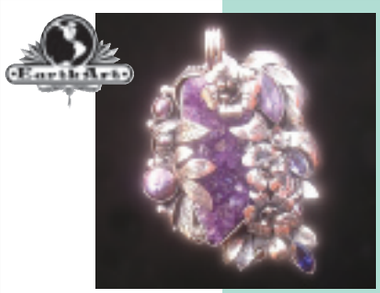


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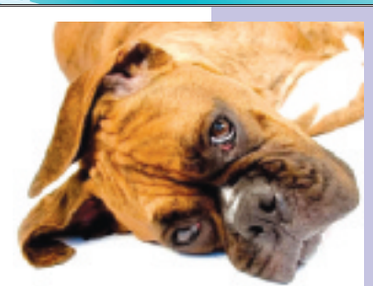
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THE SLOW DYING OF JOHNSTON HIGH

Pride of the Eastside struggles to survive



Johnston senior Gabby Camarillo consoles Art Jimenez after the Rams' homecoming game loss to Lanier. The Rams were forced to forfeit much of the season due to injuries and academic disqualifications.

KIMBERLY REEVES

BY KIMBERLY REEVES

The night Austin state Sen. Kirk Watson urged the community to pull together to save the pride of the Eastside might have been a turning point for Johnston High School.

It was Oct. 3, just a month into the school year. The overheated Johnston cafeteria was crowded with people focused on the success of the school – from members of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to key officials in the Austin Independent School District to a table full of Texas Education Agency staffers who would deal directly with the Johnston "intervention." Student leaders were also on hand, among them senior class President Gabby Camarillo, ready to take the microphone to urge classmates not to give up. The final attendance count would be 400 people – impressive for a school of only 700 students.

Watson exhorted the group to do whatever it takes to turn Johnston around, after four years of dismal standardized-test scores. The state's accountability system, once merely onerous, now carries serious consequences for schools that don't meet minimum expectations. This year Johnston – like Sam Houston High School in Houston, Oak Village Middle School in North Forest, and G.L. Wiley Middle School in Waco – faces the real threat of closure if test scores don't rise to acceptable levels.

"We can and we will succeed, if each of us and all of us are dedicated," Watson told the group. Then, he added a warning: "You must merit staying open. All of us, my friends, must be dedicated. The stakes couldn't be higher. We are talking about the lives of our children. Johnston will succeed only if everyone in this room plays a part."

Johnny Townsend, youth pastor at Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church, stood amidst the crowd at the back of the room. Solid Rock is just two blocks up the street from Johnston, but not a single member of the church's youth group attends the high school. Instead, most have chosen to transfer to other AISD schools, such as LBJ and Austin High.

> "We've got a lot of work to do, but I'm still optimistic that we're going to pull through." – Sam Guzman

Afterward, Townsend said that as he listened to Watson, he realized it was all over for Johnston. "From my standpoint, this wasn't a pep rally. It was a funeral," said Townsend. "The senator said one word that stuck with me, and that was 'merit.' The school would have to *merit* staying open. As far as I was concerned, if you hadn't been able to do something in all these years, then four to six months is not going to make a difference. As far as I could tell, this was just closure – so the senator could say, as far as politics are concerned, 'I tried to help.' And the guy who has to close the campus could say, 'Well, I came out and saw the campus.' There's no doubt in my mind the campus is going to close."

Homecoming Busters

Rocky Medrano stood in the library of Johnston High on a cold November night just over a year ago, agitated and just a little bit upset. The former boxer and onetime constable was joined by several members of the school's tiny alumni association, all of whom wanted to know just what needed to be done to save Johnston. "I would die for Johnston High School," said Medrano, dramatically spreading his arms for emphasis as he asked if everything possible was being done to save the school.

He's not the first or the last to pledge to save Johnston. Sam Guzman announced his candidacy for the Austin school board in front of the 47-year-old Johnston High. Getting Johnston back on track, Guzman said, would be his top priority, and the vow helped him win the election. Guzman says he remains optimistic, but it's not clear what that means for the school in practical terms. "I think about the last football game, and I think about the spirit the team showed on the field, the fight they had. I know the coach and the principal told them, 'You're part of the leadership that's going to push this school forward,'" Guzman said. "We've got a lot of work to do, but I'm still optimistic that we're going to pull through."

Superintendent Pat Forgione says he has not lost faith that Johnston can turn itself around this year. He points to some promising benchmarks: 80% of the teachers returned, the principal is back for a third year, and the district has committed significant resources for this year – $10,000 per student compared to $6,000 at Austin High. "I'm not losing faith, but it's very challenging," said Forgione, adding that the school's problems have been three decades in the making. "We'll face what happens this spring, but we're not giving up. You don't give up on public schools. We're committed to neighborhood schools. And if we're not successful this year, we will accept accountability."

But will Forgione's renewed commitment, Medrano and Guzman's passion for Johnston, or the pledge of support from Paul Saldaña of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – be too little, too late to save the pride of the Eastside? Enrollment has been dropping steadily, from a peak of more than 1,800 students just over a decade ago to barely 657 students this year. Coach Demo Odems

struggled to field a football team this season with enough depth to make it through four quarters on Nelson Field. The band, once 90 students strong, barely marched a dozen at Nelson Field during homecoming against Lanier High, and that included three volunteers from a local drum-and-bugle corps and two Huston-Tillotson horn players. Probably a third of the stands were filled for the Rams' homecoming game, and many students considered it the best attendance in recent memory.

Roll the clock back to 1992. That year, then-drum-major Mike New remembers, Johnston was called the "homecoming busters" because every team in the district had scheduled Johnston for homecoming, and nearly every one of them lost. The district championship game, against the LBJ Jaguars, was going to be a nail-biter. On the opposing team? Demo Odems, who remembered Johnston as a fierce and competitive team.

"The senator said one word that stuck with me, and that was 'merit.' The school would have to merit staying open. ... There's no doubt in my mind the campus is going to close." – Johnny Townsend

New remembers the bright lights, the full brass section and drum line, his measured strides to the center of Nelson Field. He remembers his slow pivot on the field to face the home-team stands and the massive sea of Columbian blue and red that stretched from one end to the other. This was the underdog – Johnston High School – showing people just what the school was actually made of, New thought. "I'll never forget it," New said, then added wryly, "I don't know if we've sold out a game since."

But it's tough for kids to feel that kind of Eastside pride this year. Only days after Johnston agreed to forfeit much of its football season due to too many injured or ineligible players – and a week after the town hall meeting in the Johnston cafeteria – the newly formed PTA gathered in the school library to talk about the school's challenges, football among them.

Principal Celina Estrada-Thomas – already burdened with the knowledge that more than a dozen football players would be held out from the team the following week due to failing grades and faced with growing signs of a significant post-lunch attendance problem – had to face parents who felt both bruised and angry, saying they were being punished for choosing to keep their children at Johnston High.



Principal Celina Estrada-Thomas

"First and foremost, I cannot apologize enough for the turmoil and just the hurt feelings over this decision," Estrada-Thomas told the crowd of about two dozen parents and a handful of students. "I would hope that all of you know, by now, that decisions here are made in the best interest of the kids, and I would never set out deliberately to hurt anyone or create a problem for this school. … We have their best interest at heart."

Art Jimenez's mother, Anna, was stricken at the news. Her son, an offensive and defensive tackle who had played football since he was 5, was about to see his entire senior football season thrown away because of Johnston's troubles. Maybe, Jimenez said, she should have transferred her son to Crockett High when she had the chance. "I know the situation. I know we did not have any choice, but there has to be some type of exception for him," Jimenez told Estrada-Thomas. "I don't know why the district is doing this to our school, why we have to suffer. No one is advocating for us, for him. I want him to finish his season as a varsity player. Someone needs to fight for that for him."

Jimenez's sadness and disappointment – over her son's season and, indirectly, over the failure to turn Johnston around – has been reflected in a lot of faces lately. New, who has coached the struggling drum line for no pay for three years now, watched other high school band directors circling the Johnston band hall, picking over the school's equipment in anticipation of a closure that still has yet to be averted, despite all efforts.

"I just want to be sure to get the band pictures," said New a bit sadly, strapping on his snare drum in the Nelson Field parking lot before he marched in with the band at the Lanier game. "I want to make sure those don't get lost."

A Mountain to Climb

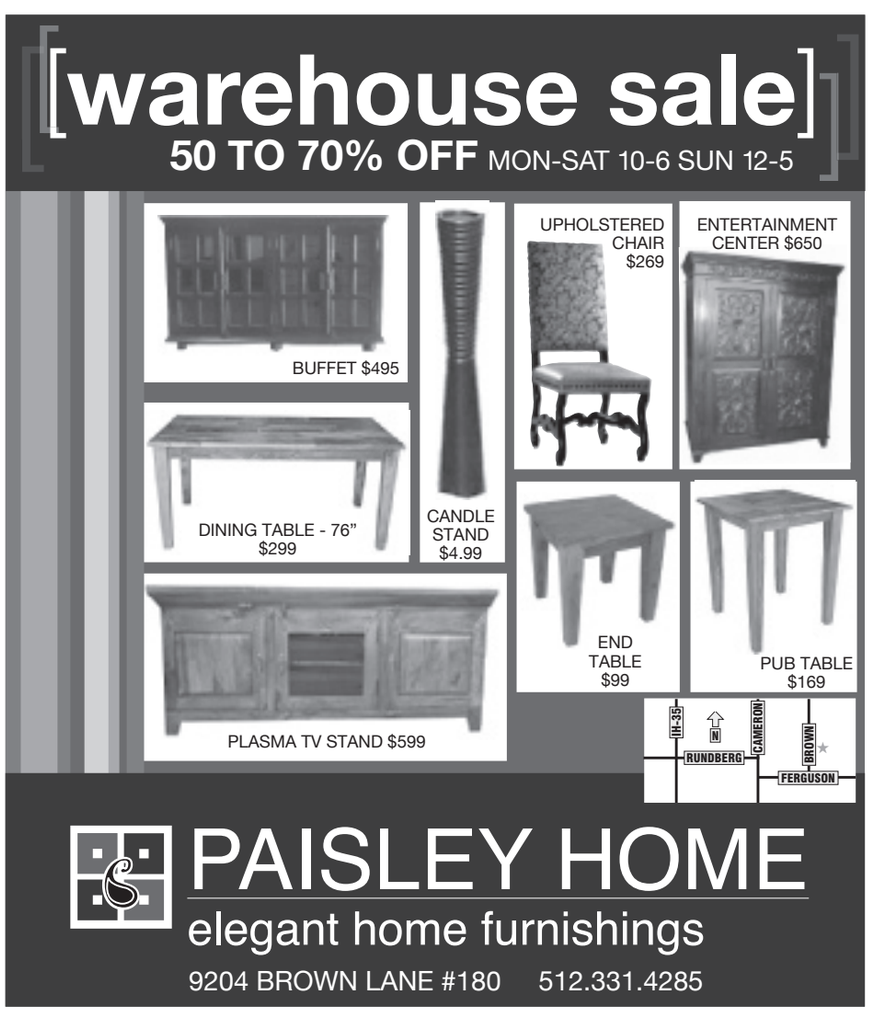
Take all the high schools in the state – from the predominately white enclave of Highland Park to the toughest inner-city ghettos of Houston's Fifth Ward to the challenges of a transient, non-English-speaking population along the Texas-Mexico border – and consider this: Only two high schools in the state have performed so poorly, for so long, that the state has marked them for closure. One is in Houston's roughest neighborhood. And the other is Johnston High School.

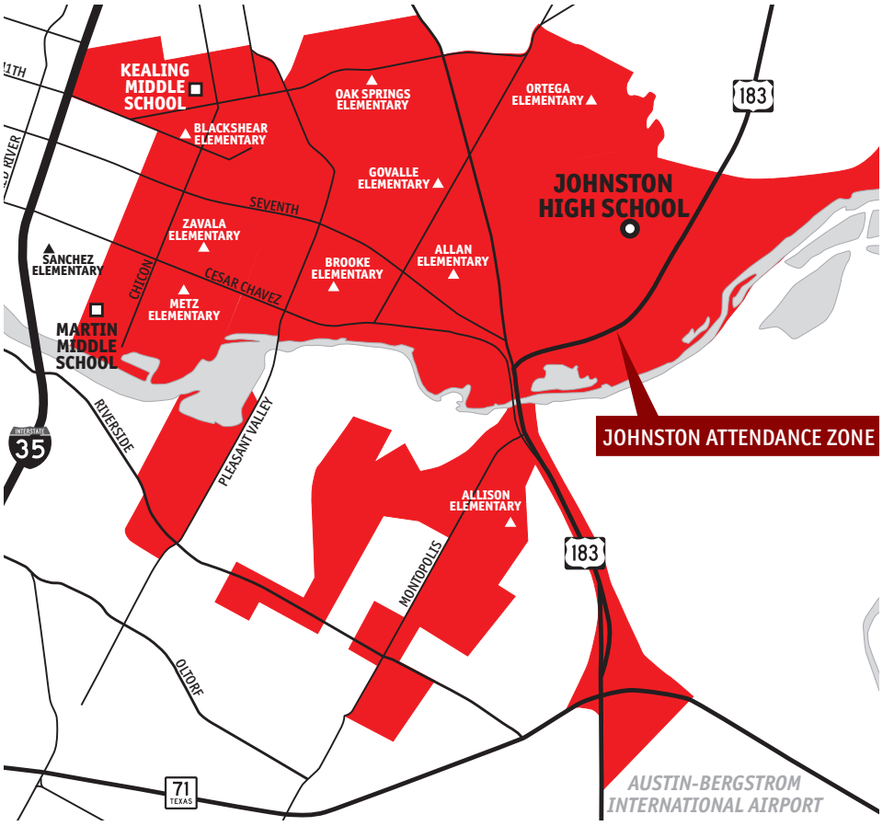
What happened at Johnston is not typical. Most schools that end up on the state's list of low-performing schools do end up turning themselves around. School leaders take notice. District officials do what it takes to intervene. In fact, Texas Education Agency statistics show that eight out of 10 schools that are put on the watch list in the first year – be it for test scores or even dropout rates – won't be back on that list the next year.

While other schools have scored lower on the state's standardized tests – comparable scores at Reagan, for instance, were well below Johnston in both language arts and math last year – it's Johnston that will pay the price for dismally and chronically failing the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Under state law, Johnston should have been closed this year, after three years of low performance, but

continued on p.32







Johnston's attendance boundary is drawn for a high school of 1,375 students, but only 657 attend the school. More than 608 who are zoned for Johnston go to other high schools. The elementary schools in Johnston's feeder pattern track to either Martin or Kealing Middle School, and Johnston parents complain that parents – and particularly mobile, middle-class parents – choose to send their children elsewhere, under the district's open-transfer policy and the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Commissioner Robert Scott agreed he would wait another year before deciding to close it. "I don't want to make that decision this spring," Scott told the crowd at Watson's town hall meeting in early October. "This is the year. This is our shot. This is meeting the kids where they are and propelling them forward. We will meet you where you are, but I just ask you to please come with us."

At the November PTA meeting, Estrada-Thomas said Johnston is making progress, adding that the staff is looking for ways to make the school more relevant to students. Once students get to school, they have to see a connection between what they're learning and the outside world, she said. "We will make fantastic gains this year, we will," Estrada-Thomas told a group of about 40 parents who attended the dinner meeting. "Things are going great. Everything is in place; we've gotten the help that we need, but we have to continue to push ourselves as educators, and you have to continue to push yourselves in the community."

Yet Johnston's attendance continues to fall, often 8-10% below the state and district average. Students at Johnston often cut class, simply picking and choosing which classes they want to attend during the day. Almost everyone at Johnston talks about the problem and how it's going to have a big impact on test scores.

Estrada-Thomas has asked for volunteers to patrol the campus during lunch. At the nine-week mark in the school year, 57% of Johnston's students already had at least two unexcused post-lunch absences. Attendance figures in the school bulletin the week of Johnston's homecoming noted that overall attendance was going down, rather than up, as the school year progressed. Attendance the first six weeks was just over 85%. The week of Oct. 26 it had fallen to 83%.

The real test for Johnston will be scores on standardized tests in April, but Johnston should already have a sense of how the students will do. Like many schools, Johnston benchmarked its scores at the beginning of the school year and will repeat the process, most likely in December and February, to estimate whether students will be able to hit the mark in April.

Joe Kopec, a retired Austin High principal who acts as one of four members of the state-mandated Campus Intervention Team, praised Estrada-Thomas, saying the campus is doing everything it can to raise student achievement. But Kopec admitted the first set of benchmark scores this fall was a disappointment, lower than what school leaders expected to set the pace to pass the test in April.

Johnston has made some gains. It has an active PTA for the first time in 17 years and a football booster club for the first time in a decade. The booster club, after a successful barbecue fundraiser, hosted a free tailgate party for students and alumni in the parking lot of Nelson Field before the homecoming game, serving up brisket and sausage. "We're making money. Coach is putting together a program. We have a PTA. We're moving ahead," said David Fuentes, who played baseball at Johnston and graduated in 1981. "I was brought up to believe you stick it out until the end. We're going to do everything that we can do, but I think it all comes down to how bad the students want it."

School and district leaders have recited a litany of challenges that face Johnston. One in five girls at the school will bear a child before she graduates. One in three doesn't speak English. About 40% of those students who enter Johnston in any given year won't finish the school year there. And with an average household income of $9,000 in the surrounding neighborhood, many parents expect their teenagers to work. PTA President Geneva Oliva, herself a 1974 alumna, admits that once the money starts rolling in, parents often decide a GED is just as good as a Johnston diploma.

Those are all good reasons why Johnston faces many challenges. But look at the Texas Education Agency website, and pull up the list of Johnston's Campus Comparison Group. That's the list of the 40 campuses in the state that the TEA considers to be most similar to Johnston in demographics.

Many face the same challenges as Johnston but see twice – or even three times – as many students pass the state-mandated tests. The demographics of San Antonio's Brackenridge High School are close to 90% Hispanic and low-income, with a mobility rate of about 30%. Yet the campus sends 70% of its students to college and is the top-ranked Texas high school for sending students to the University of Notre Dame.

Consider Davis High School, in Houston, with demographics similar to Johnston. An oil-company-sponsored college scholarship – which promises a four-year scholarship to any Davis grad with at least a "C" average – means that when compared to similar high schools, Davis students now score in the top quartile in both language arts and math. Forgione says AISD is exploring similar incentives for Johnston – students zoned to the school might be more willing to stay put, he said, if they know a college scholarship waits at the end of four years.

"The turnarounds in principals, the turnarounds in teachers ... [The district] should have realized the problem. It's like they decided they would give up on Johnston."
– Geneva Oliva

At the October town hall meeting, principal Estrada-Thomas gave parents every assurance that she and her staff were doing everything they could to raise test scores. The majority of teachers, for the first time in a number of years, were returning to the campus instead of requesting transfers. A campus instructional strategy, with content-team leaders, would focus intently on the four core subject areas. And every Wednesday afternoon, Estrada-Thomas and her instructional team would sit down for a three-hour meeting to review student progress. "We call it the Power of Nine," Estrada-Thomas said. "Our No. 1 priority is instruction improvement and supporting our teachers in every way possible."

School officials have added twilight school to recapture credits and Saturday school to improve attendance. They have doubled the time on math and reading offerings. Discipline referrals are down, attendance is up, and block walks with volunteers have reclaimed dropouts and cut the dropout rate in half. Estrada-Thomas told parents in October that the leadership at the school was not just working harder but smarter.

They say it takes three to five years to change a school's culture, Estrada-Thomas told the group. Johnston is in year three, just hitting its stride. With time and encouragement and the presence of parents on campus, this turnaround could work, she said.

"We've got the programs in place," Estrada-Thomas declared. "All we're going to need here is just a little more time." If that's true, then why does the student enrollment continue to erode and the attendance rates fall? And why are so many people saying privately that it's too little and too late?

Just Walking Away

Most would argue that the turning point at Johnston – that point when Johnston went from established to dying – came with AISD's 2002 decision to move the Liberal Arts Academy from Johnston to LBJ. From one year to the next, the enrollment in the band dropped from 90 to 10. The entire award-winning journalism program was wiped out. Worse, from the academic standpoint, enrollment in Advanced Placement courses dropped by half, making it more difficult to field and fill a variety of courses for the remaining college-bound students at Johnston.

At the time, supporters of the LAA move argued that higher-achieving white students actually masked the scores of Johnston's neighborhood students and that the move would force the school to finally address its lagging test scores. (They're now making the same argument about LBJ.) Angry neighborhood parents said the magnet, oversold as a benefit from the start, had failed to bring in the quality instructors and better instruction for the nonmagnet students at Johnston.

Some, like neighborhood pastor Townsend, would argue that Johnston was never intended to be a strong academic campus. As early as 1991, AISD was proposing to close Johnston and replace it with some other program. Townsend, who graduated from LBJ in 1995, remembers that Johnston was always perceived as "the trades high school." All the students, interested or not, were pushed into career and vocational programs, often at the expense of academics. Townsend said the

continued on p.34

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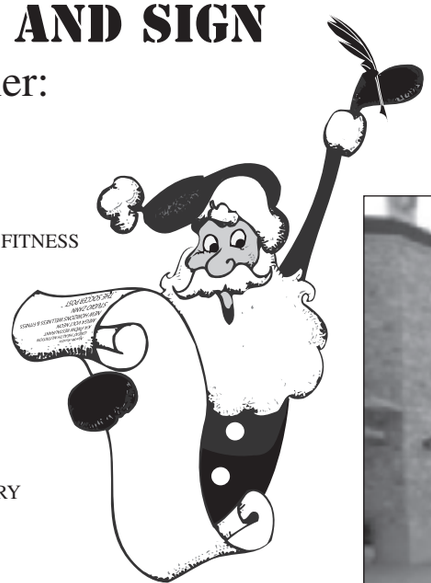
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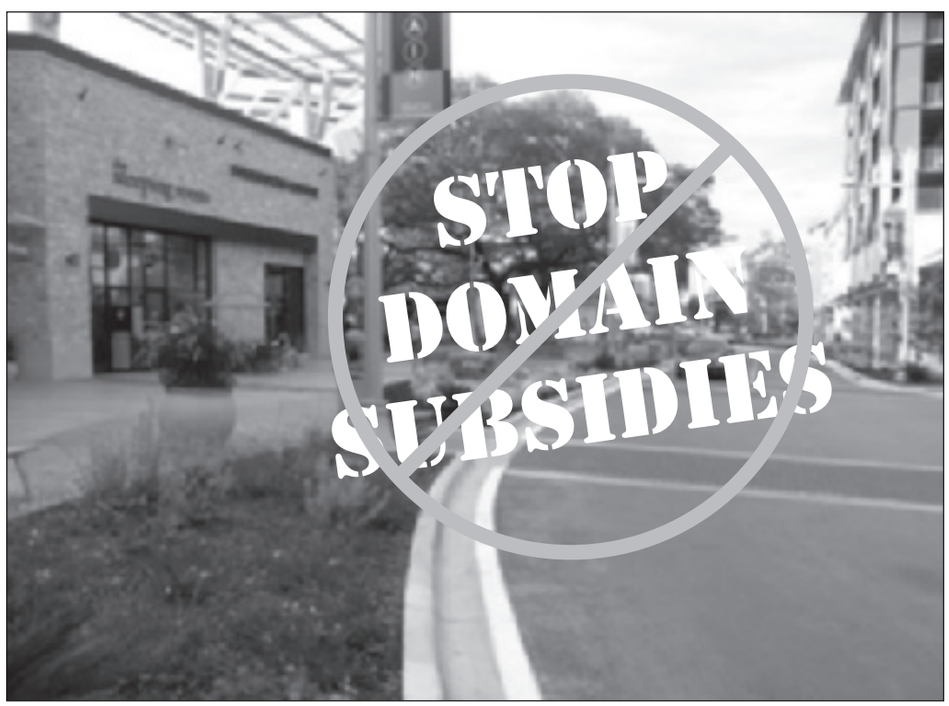
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JANA BIRCHUM

The Rams band marches past Johnston in the homecoming parade. The band marched fewer than a dozen at homecoming. Prior to the transfer to LBJ of the Liberal Arts Academy, the band had 90 members.

perception at other high schools in the Austin district was that you might go over to Johnston to take a class, but you never wanted to enroll there.

Hector Montenegro spent three years as principal at Johnston in the mid-1990s and was considered the one man who had the best chance of turning the school around. At the time, Montenegro welcomed the opportunity. His wife had graduated from Johnston. He saw the school as a strong blend of magnet and neighborhood students, not a trade high school propped up by the scores of the school's liberal arts academy. "Yes, we had career and technology, but I didn't see that as part of the problem," Montenegro said. "I think the bigger part of the problem, though, was this image that people had of the Dove Springs kids, that they weren't college-bound."

The departure of the magnet was significant, but University of Texas education researcher Ed Fuller would argue that Johnston was on the downslide well before that. The trouble, he says, began back in 1999, when teacher turnover on the Eastside campus spiked above 30%. That should have been a sign to district officials that something significant at Johnston needed to be fixed. "One of the first signs of a problem campus is that the teachers start bailing out," Fuller said. "It's like rats jumping off a ship. No one wants to stay in a bad job. That's true for any profession, and it's especially true in education."

It's a commonplace assumption that teacher experience is a significant indicator for student success. Johnston's faculty – and there is a caveat here that the statistics include the former Liberal Arts Academy faculty – went from a majority being more experienced than most teachers in AISD to a majority having 10 years or less in the classroom and a good percentage being either brand-new teachers or teachers with less than five years' worth of experience.

Parents, even if they couldn't put their finger on it, sensed that the district should have recognized sooner the school's distress, reflected in the turnover. Oliva, the PTA president, had three children who attended Johnston over 10 years. She herself comes from a family of eight children, most of whom attended the school. Asked just what went wrong at Johnston, Oliva talks first about the turnover of both the principals and the faculty. She blames the district for failing to see the problem for what it was.

"I think what's happened at Johnston happened because they weren't keeping up with us. The turnarounds in principals, the turnarounds in teachers. … They should have realized the problem. It's like they decided they would give up on Johnston," Oliva said. "How can our students continue to learn when you have too many substitutes in the classroom? How can you expect the school to survive when you have so many principals? Now the school board's coming down and blaming the parents, blaming the students? Why let this go on at Johnston for four years before really doing something about it?"

School leaders certainly would argue that they've made substantial changes to improve performance at the campus. They brought in consultants. They visited schools. They decided to divide the school into three, and then two, small learning communities so that students would get personal attention. They brought in the International High School to share the facility, students who have been a significant part of the football and drill teams.

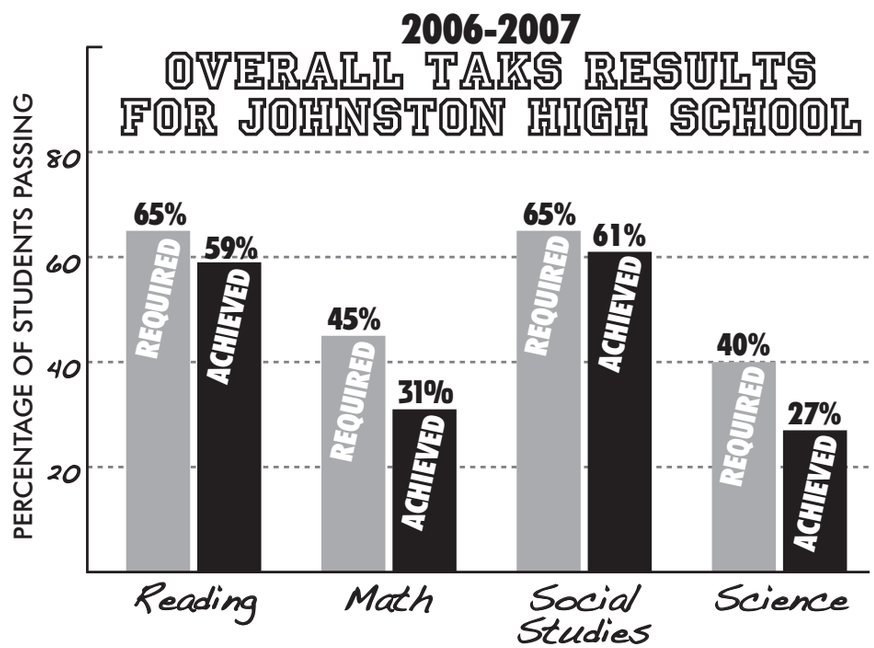
But those moves have not always been the right moves. In community meetings, Forgione has praised the school for making strong gains, especially in literacy. In a letter to then-Commissioner Shirley Neeley in June, though, Forgione admitted the 2005 redesign plan was ill-conceived, and that it needed to be replaced with the school's current curriculum effort, First Things First.

"The redesign plan we initiated at Johnston two years ago, with the Texas High School Redesign and Restructuring Grant, was unfortunately based on the use of individual best practices and not a cohesive, research-based model," Forgione wrote. "While it was implemented with great commitment and effort and in concert with a reconstitution of most of the school's teaching corps and leadership, it did not represent the kind of comprehensive, cohesive, best-practice model that First Things First provides.

"Our lack of experience with the principles of effective high school redesign at the campus and district levels at that time was partially to blame for the mistakes made in this design. We have learned a great deal over the past two years from our work with TEA, the Texas High School Project, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IRRE [Institute for Research and Reform in Education] and our other redesign partners. We now understand that the implementation of the proven FTF model with fidelity through a close partnership with IRRE offers the best opportunity for turning Johnston around and serving the students of Johnston well."

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As far as I was concerned, if you hadn't been able to do something in all these years, then four to six months is not going to make a difference." – Johnny Townsend



Scores on the four required sections of the state-mandated Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests still fall short at Johnston. Every student must pass the TAKS to graduate high school. Considering the passing rates for all Johnston students, the gap between what students scored and what the state requires ranges from 4% to 14%. The gaps are even greater for subgroups of students, such as Hispanic, African-American, and economically disadvantaged (not shown).

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And the International High School? While the non-English-speaking students have done relatively well in an intensive limited-English group setting, Townsend is unimpressed. "They knew the school was in trouble," he said. "Why did they go ahead and bring in students who were going to have difficulties? I don't know why they didn't bring in something that was going to help Johnston be successful."

Teacher turnover and the wrong academic model are two direct factors that impacted Johnston. Those factors, however, combine with two other district trends that Fuller says have impacted Johnston indirectly. First, through much of the Nineties, AISD – in a well-meaning attempt at greater faculty diversity – delayed hiring teachers until every qualified minority applicant possible was sought and reviewed. What does that have to do with Johnston? It means the district, when it failed to hire those quality minority applicants, returned to its original applicant pool. The district ended up hiring for Johnston in the first and second weeks of August and typically hiring the weakest applicants. Remember being the last one picked for dodgeball? It applies to hiring teachers, too.

And where do these teachers end up? They end up staying in AISD, and they tend to gravitate to the schools with fewer demands, Fuller said. Those circumstances tend to suggest that not only are there too many teachers who are new at Johnston but that some of the more experienced educators are probably not of the highest caliber, Fuller said. "I lay the blame with the school district," he said. "The district should have caught this sooner. They should have recognized it as a sign and fixed the school."

Forgione rejects Fuller's charge, saying the real challenge in Austin is not recruiting teachers; it's retaining them. Twenty years ago, Austin had its pick of teachers. These days, it has to compete with fast-growing communities like Del Valle, Manor, and Round Rock.

The second factor, which few people want to acknowledge publicly, is that Austin traditionally has had a weak principal corps. For whatever reason, most AISD principals have lacked longevity, and some have lacked quality. Johnston may be the worst – with 10 principals in eight years, including the infamous and arrested Al Mindiz-Melton – but almost every high school in the district has suffered from regular principal turnover.

Teacher turnover is one statistic. Principal quality is another. Now consider a third statistic concerning Johnston. On the aforementioned Campus Comparison Group report is a column listing a number indicating how many students are being compared. To be fair, the state will only compare students who were on the campus the year before. So a comparison of similar campuses in 2006 would look only at those students who were enrolled in the comparison school in both 2005 and 2006.

Brackenridge could find 1,021 students to match, year-to-year, on its 1,800-student campus. Davis had 821. Johnston could find only 281 students. Students are, literally, walking away in droves from Johnston and never returning.

Then consider the impact of these three combined factors: Principals aren't there long enough to weed out bad teachers, teachers aren't around long enough to know their students, and students have no knowledge of either. All of these can easily lead to – or be exacerbated by – the chronic attendance issues at Johnston.

Under those circumstances, it's not surprising to see students, along with parents, jumping ship. As you walk down the long main hall of Johnston, you can see it in the senior class photographs. Johnston was never large. It never graduated more than 270 students. But as you follow the line of pictures down the hall, right through the late Nineties, you can see the class size slowly shrinking. And those principals on the front row – the same, reassuring group of four through much of the Nineties – become a troubled sea of changing faces. Estrada-Thomas, with three years at Johnston, now qualifies as a seasoned administrator.

As it is, students at Johnston tend to desert the campus or pick and choose which classes to attend or simply leave at lunchtime and never come back to school. At a recent PTA meeting, Estrada-Thomas told parents that better than half the students had two or more absences from post-lunch classes, but when it was suggested the campus should be closed for lunch, there was a flurry of protests from parents. In the end, Estrada-Thomas decided she didn't want to punish the seniors. And the number of absences and tardies on campus – recorded dutifully on the weekly school bulletin – continues to rise.

Eastside Pride

Community members often consider AISD to be more of a hindrance than a help in trying to rescue flailing schools. Historically, Superintendent Forgione has advocated closure and reuse of a campus rather than early intervention, as with his proposal last year to reuse the now-resurrected Webb Middle School as the district's all-boys school. And it's not just Forgione. As early as 1991, the district had proposed closing Lanier and Johnston campuses and using them for alternative schools.

State law doesn't always favor fixing the school community's problems, either. If Johnston fails this year, the campus could be turned over to a nonprofit for operation. Some in the community are speculating that Southwest Key – which failed to get one of the

WHAT WORKED AT WEBB

Last fall, as the 2006-07 school year began, it was hard to find anyone who believed that the "low-performing" Webb Middle School was going to pull itself back from the brink of failure.

Like Johnston High, Webb had tried many instructional strategies against similar challenges with its students and its community, with some improvement, but the St. Johns neighborhood middle school continued to fail. AISD Superintendent Pat Forgione was considering Webb as a potential site for an all-boys middle school, akin to the new Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders on the site of the former Porter Middle School.

Then, something happened. History teacher David Runnels said he'd like to say the credit goes to the teachers, who were certainly concerned but didn't know exactly what to do to turn the school around. Instead, he says, the real victory belongs to two community leaders, neither of whom had a child attending Webb. Allen Weeks and David Delgado, who already were organizing the St. Johns community against crime, agreed to make Webb a priority.

"It was just this huge commitment by a couple of people who got the ball rolling in our community," said Runnels, in his third year at Webb. "Normally, we would have five or six parents show up to a meeting at school. Suddenly last year, we had 50, then 100, then 150 parents showing up for events, meeting with teachers." Suddenly, teachers received working phone numbers for families, and parents began showing up at teacher conferences. When students weren't in their seats on the first day of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, parents and volunteers put on Webb T-shirts and walked door-to-door.

It didn't happen overnight. For four years, Weeks and Delgado had been involved in the community. They worked on the Pickle Elementary campus. They hosted block parties, neighborhood cleanups, and unity marches and with that outreach, rid the neighborhood of some of the worst drug dealers. In the process, the neighbors overcame barriers of class, language, and culture.

Johnston High once had these kinds of connections, but the turnover in principals hobbled the effort. Austin Interfaith spent two years organizing the campus before a full-scale community volunteer program was launched on campus. It lasted three years and then burned out. The Rev. John Korcsmar of Dolores Catholic Church, who worked directly with the Johnston effort, said the pressures the school is under – and the attitude of school leaders – has made it difficult to intervene.

"I'm not close to Johnston any more, but I think there are a number of forces coming together that are making it difficult, if not impossible, to help that school do better," Korcsmar said. "There really isn't an openness to get other people to work with them, Austin Interfaith or anyone else. There just seems like there's less and less of an opportunity and less and less of a desire on the part of the school." He says part of the problem is that the district simply doesn't know how to work with parents. "For whatever reason, the school system seems to be not quite sure if they really want volunteers on campus. It's as if they've rounded the wagons in a defensive mode," Korcsmar said. "Almost any school, Johnston included, says, 'We need parental involvement.' But when you get the parents there, they usually say, 'We don't know what to do with them.'"

David Greco, a teacher who helped organize the Johnston team, said Austin Interfaith focused on building a leadership team and then adding programs, such as summer youth employment and afterschool tutoring. The program ended just after the school fell into the "low-performing" category; Greco doubts that any of the teachers who worked with the program are still there. "I would say we were an important part of what was happening on the campus. We started to see some results from the work," Greco said. "I don't want to overstate our impact, but I do think we saw demonstrated results, including better test scores."

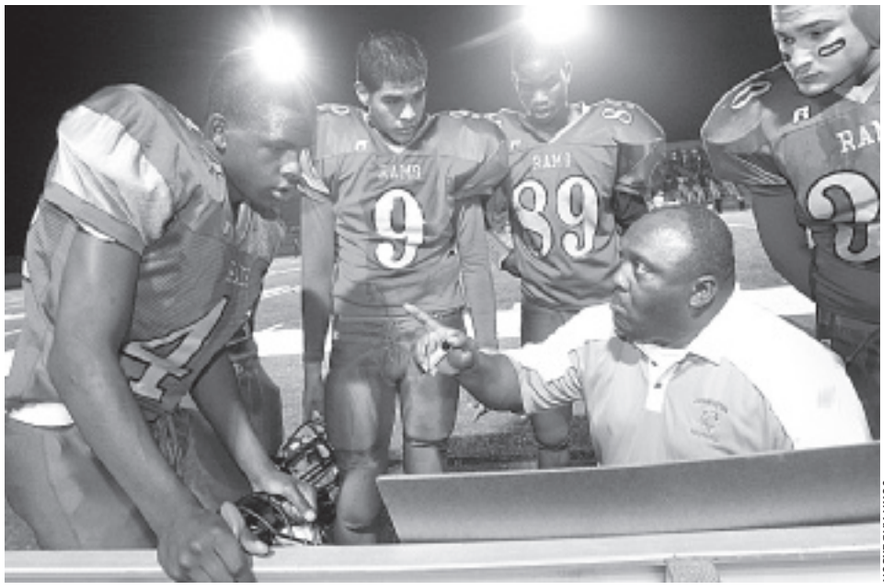
When the announcement went out that Webb faced closure, Weeks and Delgado immediately called together a core group of 40 parents. Then they started making phone calls, walking door-to-door, and collecting phone numbers. And they didn't stop. Weeks estimated the group made not hundreds, but thousands, of phone calls last spring. "First off, we told them: 'We're going to agree that this school will not close. This will not happen. We are not going to let it happen,'" Weeks said. "We kept that in our heads, right from the beginning. And we started talking with our parents about what kind of community support we could offer to make this a better school."

These Webb parents, many poor and some non-English-speaking, took ownership of their school. At Johnston, on the other hand, the parents have not been organized in such a fashion since Austin Interfaith pulled out of the school three years ago. Johnston has volunteers – both alumni and local community groups – but it doesn't have the roots of a community-driven volunteer effort. At Kirk Watson's town hall meeting, Johnston parents were concerned but frustrated. Instead of talking about solutions, audience members spent a lot of time pointing fingers at one another. On Nov. 17, just before Thanksgiving, administrators and parents, including about 50 volunteers, did take part in a house-to-house block walk for Johnston, hoping to boost attendance. Nevertheless, overall enrollment continues to drop.

"Anger is good for a night or a week, and then you're done with it," Weeks said. "It doesn't have much of a purpose anymore. You've got to get on the same side of the problem, and you have to do it quickly. I told my parents, 'We may not always agree with Dr. Forgione's plans, but we've got to work with him.'"

"When you're talking about schools like Webb and Johnston, the problems that are pulling them down are far beyond academics," Weeks said. "The school system has been hesitant to really go down that road. All the things that happen with kids outside the school hours are really difficult to address." So at Webb, the city paid for a social worker, three nurses volunteered, and six people from a Spanish-language church were trained to be health-care advocates. All these people together created a family resource center that meets with each family entering Webb and assesses employment, health care, and housing issues. Weeks credits that intervention with retaining 30 students who otherwise might have left the Webb community.

Korcsmar said introducing social services onto AISD campuses has been difficult. Even the simplest act – like introducing a school clinic on the Zavala Elementary campus – can turn into a political football, over issues like the possible distribution of birth control. What should be a simple health-care intervention becomes a serious headache for both the school and district. "At times, it's like a closed society," Korcsmar said. "They'll invite people in, but they don't always understand what the school needs to do." – *K.R.*



JOHN ANDERSON

Coach Tommy Reaux talks to Shayan Majd during the first quarter of the homecoming game against Lanier. The Rams eventually lost to the Vikings, 50-14.

handful of remaining state charters this year but still appears to be hovering in the wings – is simply waiting for the school to fail in order to secure the campus.

Johnston parents often put the lack of advocacy on behalf of Johnston on the school's feeder patterns and the district's open transfer policies. Johnston's attendance boundaries are drawn for a high school of 1,375 students, but only 657 attend. More than 600 choose to go somewhere else.

The problem starts in middle school. The elementary schools in Johnston's feeder pattern (see map) attend either Martin or Kealing middle schools. Johnston parents complain that parents – particularly mobile, middle-class parents – choose to send their children to Austin High School. The district's transfer policies, echoed by the federal No Child Left Behind law (which requires open transfers from underperforming schools), have indirectly resegregated Johnston for only the poorest children.

"We have students who live across the street from Johnston who catch a bus to go to Austin High," said Fuentes, with a shake of his head, as he tends to the smoker at the tailgate party. "That just makes it rougher on us. The smaller the group of students, the more every student counts. It puts a lot of pressure on the kids."

Most speculate – and some say AISD has run the data – that most of the brighter Johnston-zoned students now go to other high schools. Ironically, that means that the pride of the Eastside is, in all likelihood, over at Austin High.

Gabby Camarillo is one of Johnston's overachievers. Likable and outgoing, Camarillo looks and acts like a student leader on any high school campus in Austin. Not only is she the co-captain of the cheerleading squad and secretary of the student council; she's also the president of the senior class and captain of the school's softball team. And, like her mother, Camarillo maintains strong ties to her community. Her kindergarten teacher sat alongside Gabby's mother at the Johnston homecoming game.

Gabby's older sister graduated from Austin High School. Her older brother graduated from Anderson. Gabby, a senior, chose to attend Martin Middle School and Johnston High, even though she estimates no more than 20 of her classmates from her early years of school actually ended up graduating from Johnston.

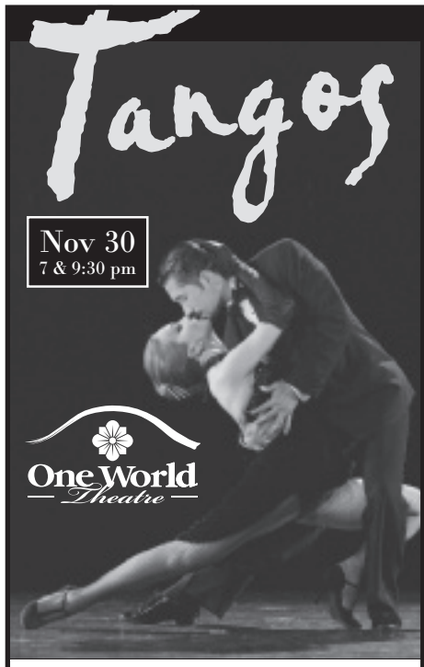
"I wanted to come to Johnston. I'd heard good things about it," Camarillo said. "It's a small school, and I think you get a lot more one-on-one attention here." ■



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Conspirare Children's Choir
Birdsong for the holidays

On Dec. 1, the award-winning, 70-member Conspirare Children's Choir will present, for one performance only, its holiday concert, Birdsong. Connecting birdsong with this, our most festive time of year, requires something of a cognitive leap, and Nina Revering, the musical director, took that mental jump this past summer. "Last June, the CCC toured Washington, D.C.," says Revering. "That was our first tour together. And we did all of the memorials and studied up on the history and sang everywhere we went. At that point, I had only two pieces of music that I had selected for this program, both entitled 'The Birds' – one in a setting by Benjamin Britten and the other by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. 'The Birds' is a poem by a Frenchman named Hilaire Belloc. A very beautiful, very intriguing poem, and I loved the juxtaposition of these two pieces written by two different composers using the same text. But I had no idea what else we were going to sing."

No idea, that is, until she and the choir members visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. "I cannot share with you how absolutely powerful that place is. It's very intense and very … well, I walked out of there and everything looked different. One of the most powerful moments was seeing some drawings by children that had lived in the camps. Pencil sketches, crayon pictures of flowers that they had drawn. Then, my dear friend and colleague Rick Gabrillo suggested 'Birdsong.' It was written by a composer named Paul Read, and the text was written by a child in a concentration camp. It's about looking at the world from a bird's-eye view. And it says things like, 'The world is full of love,' 'how fine it is to live,' 'how wonderful to be alive.' It touched me absolutely to the core, and I loved that it was connected to our bird theme and to our trip to Washington and the Holocaust Museum."



While CCC has been in existence only a scant two years, the group has proved so popular that the concert is already sold out, so if you wish to attend, you might want to get on the waiting list ASAP. As to adding a performance or two, Revering says, "We'll think about that for next year. Either that or find a bigger venue." A string quartet will accompany the choir, along with occasional piano, organ, double bass, and *djembe*, an African percussion instrument. For the traditionalists among us, the program will include an arrangement of an African-American spiritual about the Christmas story, "Go Where I Send Thee"; two movements from Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, sung in Latin; and a movement of Handel's *Messiah*. And while the program isn't really meant to be about Christmas, in a sense it is. "It's really about hope and joy," says Revering. "The joy of living." Few things could be more holy than that. – *Barry Pineo*

The Conspirare Children's Choir will present Birdsong Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30pm, at St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd. For more information, call 476-5775 or visit **www.conspirare.org**.

Ballet East presents The Sameness of Change *Nov. 29-Dec. 2; Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm; at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 385-2838 or visit* **www.balleteast.org**.



Chika Aluka

Ballet East Dance Company
Reclaiming the modern in a pomo world

It may seem odd to imagine something "modern" being forgotten, but that looks to be what's happening in dance, according to Rodolfo Mendez. The artistic director of Ballet East Dance Company says he sees a generation of dancers growing up with little or no knowledge of modern dance, as it was developed in the early and mid-20th century by the likes of Doris Humphrey, Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, Lester Horton, and José Limón. Their specific styles and ways of working have been somewhat displaced in the four decades since postmodern dance's experimentations began to take hold. For dancers growing up in a pomo world, that's the prevailing standard.

So Mendez, who trained with such prominent figures in modern dance as Alvin Ailey, Milton Myers, and Joyce Trisler, has made it part of his 30-year mission with Ballet East to ensure that young dancers know the differences between movement that's modern and pomo. And in getting his charges to "get" modern, he occasionally calls in his old friend Regina Larkin, another student of Trisler's who went on to become artistic director of the Joyce Trisler Danscompany. Larkin has been back in Austin this fall to help prepare Ballet East's current production, *The Sameness of Change*. With dances by area choreographers Melissa Villarreal, Danny Herman, Sharon Marroquin, Gina Patterson, Amberlee Cantrell, Elizabeth Palmer, and Ananda Moss, as well as Larkin, the show is one Mendez hopes will serve as "a reminder and restoration of modern dance's traditional feel, look, and flavor." – *Robert Faires*

The Neovagina Monologues
Tales of transformation

Sandy Stone has made a career out of spoiling other people's stereotypes. Her new one-person show, *The Neovagina Monologues*, playing this weekend at the Vortex, shoots straight at the heart of the misconceptions and discomfort surrounding transgendered life.

The title refers to Eve Ensler's massively popular *The Vagina Monologues*, which was originally a one-person show performed by the author. In form, though, *The Neovagina Monologues* borrows more from the work of the late storyteller Spalding Gray. In this performance, Stone sits behind a table and tells stories from her life and the lives of other transgendered individuals.

"I have been thinking about this show for decades," says Stone. "But I couldn't do it until now. I had to live through these things and put a fair amount of distance behind me in order to create a show that would be fair to the audience."

Stone's transition to living as a woman is one of the many grand changes and contradictions she has experienced. Stone grew up as the eldest son of a Conservative Jewish family. After working first as a researcher and video artist, Stone turned to the mainstream music scene, finding gigs as a sound engineer for the likes of Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead.

Stone began living as a woman in the 1970s and was soon invited to join the feminist record label Olivia Records, despite the fact that she was at that time preoperative. "[The label] wanted to work with a woman engineer," Stone explains. "At that time, there were none."

When tensions in the feminist community grew too high for Olivia to keep a genetic male on staff, Stone left and taught herself computer programming, before finally turning to academia. Now an associate professor in the Department of Radio-Television-Film at the University of Texas, Stone is an early pioneer in the relatively young field of transgender studies.

Yet the show is decidedly unacademic, says Stone. "The reason I do this is to change lives. Academic papers don't change anything, not in the U.S."

Although she has performed *The Neovagina Monologues* and other works in Europe, Japan, and around the United States, this weekend's performance marks the first time Stone has performed her work in Austin.

Bonnie Cullum, Vortex Repertory Company's producing artistic director, says she and Stone talked about presenting a show for more than a year, but they had to wait until schedules lined up. "I thought it was really bizarre that Sandy hadn't done another show before [in Austin]. Well, I thought, let's fix that," Cullum says.

"I'm trying to do art for other audiences who are not academics," Stone says. "This show is trying to change the way people think through an act of art. If it doesn't work, then I'll try something else." – *Elizabeth Cobbe*

The Neovagina Monologues *runs Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Thursday-Sunday, 8pm, at the Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. Sandy Stone will lead a performance workshop Saturday, Dec. 1, 1-3pm. For more information, call 478-LAVA or visit* **www.vortexrep.org**.

Bouldin Creek Studio Tour
Seven to the south

Right on the heels of the East Austin Studio Tour comes the Bouldin Creek Studio Tour – a much more modest but still appealing opportunity to visit local artisans and artists in their natural habitats and score some outstanding creative work in the process. Unlike its bigger sibling to the east, this tour is just for four hours on a Saturday, but that should still give you plenty of time to cover the seven studios in this South Austin neighborhood just south of the river and west of South First. Enjoy paintings, drawings, and photography from Brian and Stella Alesi; limited-edition handmade jewelry from Stephanie Lindsey of Baby Jane, Leslie Bonnell of Glitzkrieg Studio, Rachel Lavin of Pio, and Andrea Sher-Leff of the Redheaded Goddess; custom Western and Americana-themed clothing from Kathie Sever of Ramonster; and mixed-media assemblages of paper, ink, wood, and wax called "cakes" from illustrator Shannon Lowry of Round Robin Press. Don't you have someone on your holiday gift list who needs some handmade Bouldin Creek beauty? – *R.F.*

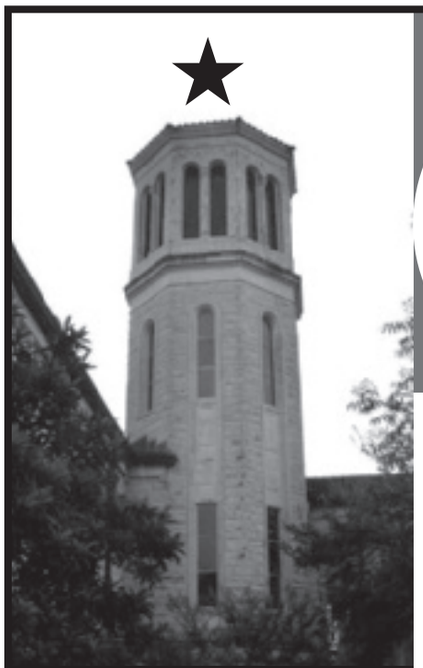
The second annual Bouldin Creek Studio Tour takes place Saturday, Dec. 1, 10am-2pm. For more information, visit **www.bouldincreekstudiotour.com**.



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Cynthia Clawson, who has been called a "singer's singer" and "the most awesome voice in gospel music" (*Billboard Magazine*), returns this year as Special Guest Artist, along with other musical guests. A part of *Christmas at the Carillon* since the 1996 performances, Ms. Clawson has played a hugely important role in establishing this series of concerts as one of Austin's most cherished holiday traditions.

Wednesday, November 28 **6:00pm**
Choral Conversation with Craig Hella Johnson
Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones Dr.
Complimentary admission. Reservation required.

Wednesday, December 5 **7:30pm**
First United Methodist Church, 407 N. Bridge St., Victoria–Call 361-570-5788

Friday, December 7 **8:00pm**
THE CARILLON GALA 2630 Exposition Blvd.
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Saturday, December 8 **8:00pm**
Univ. Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St.

Sunday, December 9 **2:30pm**
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr.

Monday, December 10 **8:00pm**
St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th St.

Tuesday, December 11 **8:00pm**
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St.

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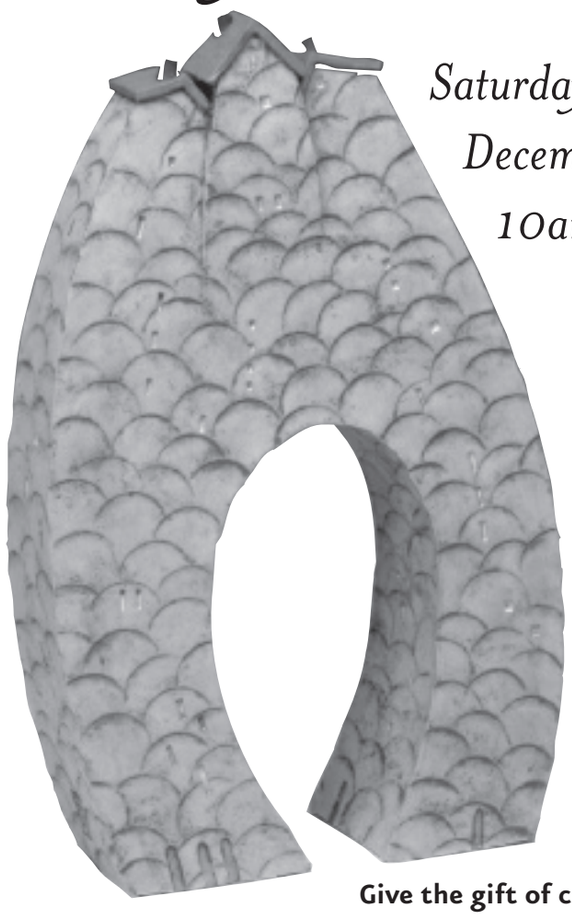
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Maakies' Daddy in the House

Austin Books and Comics hosts Tony Millionaire

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Depravity and bloodshed! Jolly Jack Tar and a barrel of woe! Maritime shenanigans à la Grand Guignol, and all resultant from or attended by a relentlessly alcoholic corvid by the name of Drinky Crow: Such are the vicissitudes to be found, limned with uncanny draftsmanship and the most twisted of wits, in Tony Millionaire's long-running comic strip *Maakies*.

We're not telling you this because there's a new book out (although Millionaire's excellent non-*Maakies* graphic novel *Billy Hazelnuts* is too recent to discount) nor because the animated version of *Maakies* is about to debut on Comedy Central's Adult Swim (because that won't happen until February). No, we mention Millionaire because the man himself will be in town and signing his various works at Austin Book and Comics on the first of December.

"But why," we imagine the incredulous query, "is this fellow coming to Austin if there's nothing with a sweet sizzle of immediacy to promote"?

"My wife's sister lives in Austin," explains Millionaire via telephone from his Pasadena, Calif., home. "We were gonna come for Thanksgiving weekend, but the plane fare for four people is like $5,000 for that weekend and only half of that for the weekend after."

Tony Millionaire will be at Austin Books and Comics Dec. 1, 3-6pm, with his collected volumes and original art available for purchase. For more information, see **www.austinbooks.com**.

Not the sort of economic jockeying you might expect from a Millionaire, but then this one's a Millionaire in (assumed) name only – although he's long supported himself without a regular day job.

"Making a living from *Maakies* didn't happen until around '94," says Millionaire. "But I went to the Massachusetts College of Art, and while I was there, I got this idea of going out to the suburbs, where the really big mansions are in Boston, and just knocking on doors and asking people if they'd like me to draw their house. And I ended up doing that for 20 years. That was my main job – and then any other odd jobs I could find illustrating, but mostly it was just drawing houses. In the springtime, when the flowers were out, or around Christmas, when people wanted a gift, it was great. But in the dead of winter or the really hot, long months of summer when people are on vacation, it was not very good, and that's when I barely scraped by."

These days, with *Maakies* running in the *New York Press* and other alt-weeklies and on its way to animated Adult Swim glory, with the popular *Sock Monkey* series of comic books from Dark Horse Press, with *Billy Hazelnuts* in hardcover via indy comics powerhouse Fantagraphics, with a panoply of sharp and shining merch available worldwide, Millionaire no longer needs to pimp his architectural rendering skills to landed gentry. Still, those skills are in constant evidence, whether in the cartoonish *Maakies* or, especially, the more realistic, fine-lined world of *Sock Monkey*, where ink from the artist's seldom-resting fountain pen is lavished on the wainscoting and cornices and balustrades of many-roomed, multigabled Dutch Colonial Revivals and salt-sprayed bungalows.

"I try to do a new house in each *Sock Monkey* book, because I just like exploring the insides of old houses. But it's kind of based on my grandmother's house in Newton, Massachusetts, a big old house that had creaky staircases and weird closets. My grandparents were both artists; they had a gallery on Bearskin Neck, an artists' colony out in Rockport. That's why there are so many ships and seaside scenes in my drawings – because I learned to draw while living on the ocean with my grandparents."



SELF-PORTRAIT BY TONY MILLIONAIRE

Need some nautical debauchery in your weekly comix fix? Tony Millionaire's *Maakies* makes its Austin debut this week, on p. 118.

You might think, due to *Sock Monkey*'s stunning visuals, not to mention the charming adventures of its stuffed-animal characters, that it would be the Millionaire creation most likely to be adapted as an animated series. If so, you'd overestimate the market's appreciation of subtlety.

"Yeah," says Millionaire, "the guys at Adult Swim, they want the funniest but also the most depraved sort of stuff." And that's *Maakies*, a weekly narrative featuring two animal antiheroes with, as Wikipedia puts it, "a propensity for drunkenness, violence, suicide, and venereal disease." On Adult Swim, it'll be called *The Drinky Crow Show*. In real life … well, of course none of the characters exist in real life. But what if they did? What if they were out in the world, among us?

"If any of them came to life?" says Millionaire, "I'd get a shovel and try to kill it."

But not if it was one of the more gentle characters from *Sock Monkey*, right?

"No, regardless of who it was," says Millionaire. "That'd be too scary." ■





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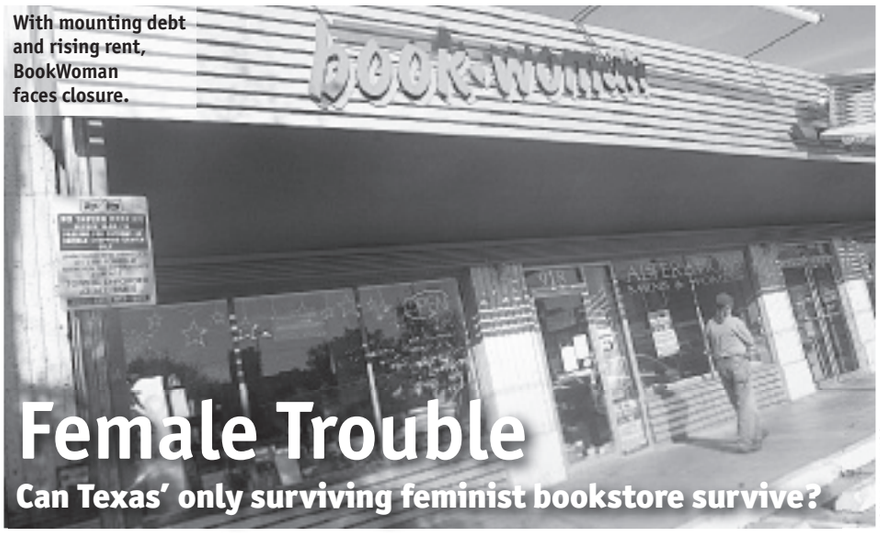
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With mounting debt and rising rent, BookWoman faces closure.

JOHN ANDERSON

Female Trouble

Can Texas' only surviving feminist bookstore survive?

BY JOE O'CONNELL

The other day a "tall, handsome stranger" left an envelope at BookWoman. Susan Post, the bookstore's proprietor, didn't see the man and pushed the envelope aside repeatedly as she went about the routine of running a small business. Finally, as closing time approached, she opened it and discovered a $5,000 donation. It was a lifeboat for the only feminist bookstore in Texas – and one of only a handful remaining in the country – which, facing the end of its Downtown lease and mounting debt, is again asking the community it has nurtured to nurture it back.

BookWoman was conceived in 1974 by Nancy Lee Marquis and Cynthia Roberts as a feminist book collective dubbed then the Common Woman Bookstore, a name that came from Judy Grahn's poem: "The common woman is as common as the best of bread/ and will rise." Post wasn't part of the original group but was instead an admitted introvert who'd found herself a quiet life working in the University of Texas' library system. She was asked three times to join in and help organize the collective's small clutch of books. "I wasn't a joiner," she says, "and I didn't know a thing about ordering books." But the third time proved the charm. She attended a small meeting, overcame her shyness, and took off on a path that has consumed her life since. As the collective members fell away, she was left running the store from her home, then was joined by Karen Umminger, and the two opened BookWoman on East Sixth Street in 1980. Now run again solely by Post, the latest location on 12th Street near North Lamar may be the last, if a drive to raise $50,000 by mid-December isn't met or if a suitable new home can't be discovered. Just before Thanksgiving the total was at about $20,000.

It's not the first time BookWoman has asked for help. A similar call went out in 2004 and kept the store financially moving forward. Why the problems again? Post sees challenges on two fronts: Independent bookstores are finding it difficult to survive – remember Congress Avenue Booksellers? Garner & Smith? Europa? – in a Barnes & Noble/Amazon.com corporate world, and Austin's rapid growth and resultant spikes in property-rental costs cut into the profit margin. "This has been slow and gradual," Post says of the store's financial woes. "It's hard to acknowledge and talk about." But Post got a pep talk recently from a longtime customer, and that sparked a meeting of about 25 people who came up with a plan to keep the store alive. T-shirts have been printed. SaveBookWoman.com launched. Cash donations pledged. New store sites – so far unsuccessfully – scouted in Central Austin, a location Post sees as vital for a store that thinks of itself as on the crossroads of Austin's diverse population.

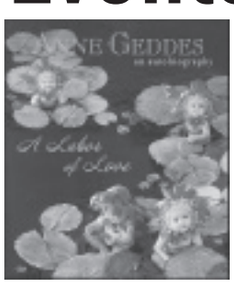
Oh, and what does Post make of the largest donation to date coming from a man? It's fitting, she says, since the store has always welcomed people of both sexes and all skin colors while concentrating on a feminist ethos. "Lots of men shop here," she says. "Feminism wants to liberate all people. It's an ongoing crusade. Women's equality and access to information remain important."

Post has become, in a sense, an archivist for the feminist book movement in Austin. There was the time BookPeople generously deferred to BookWoman to organize a visit by Alice Walker that resulted in a partnership with Folktales Bookstore and a full house at Huston-Tillotson University, plus a reception at BookWoman. Or the packed store during visits by Gloria Steinem. Or the joy of discovering relatively unknown poets like Cindy Childress. Or the basic knowledge of the books that came before – Post is a visual thinker who remembers them by their covers.

"Acts of grace guided me," Post says of the more than three decades she has invested in BookWoman. "I learned everything on the job, and my education has continued every day. I think there's a future in the store. Women need a safe place to grow, to learn, and to give back to the community." She hopes that place still will be called BookWoman. ■

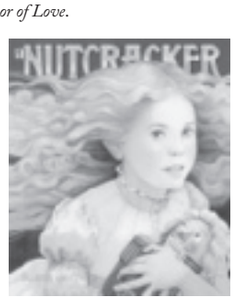
Visit **www.savebookwoman.com** *for more information. A fundraising event will take place Friday, Dec. 7, 7pm, at 2505 Princeton Dr., featuring musicians the Therapy Sisters, Purly Gates, Nancy Scott, and Las Gabacha-chas. Call 771-4957 or e-mail* **lrguitar@sbcglobal.net** *to RSVP.*

Events at BookPeople



A LABOR OF LOVE
ANNE GEDDES
Andrews McMeel
Tuesday, December 4 12:00 PM
Anne Geddes has been a photographer for twenty-five years, taking pictures of literally thousands of infants and toddlers. *A Labor of Love* is Geddes's autobiography chronicling the photographs and memories of her high profile career. The book is a wonderful gift this holiday season, with gorgeous full-page photographs from some of Geddes's most memorable shoots. Anne will be at BookPeople today at noon to sign copies of *A Labor of Love*.

THE NUTCRACKER
BY SUSAN JEFFERS
Harper Collins
Saturday, December 1 11:30 AM



The Christmas season is upon us, and everything is a bit sparklier. One thing that always makes this time of year even more luminous and lovely is the annual production of *The Nutcracker* ballet. We are very lucky to be partnering with Ballet Austin for an extra special storytime with Clara (Sophi Siragusa) herself here to read Jeffers's version of *The Nutcracker*. It will be marvelous and magical. Come and join us as we listen to this classic Christmas tale.

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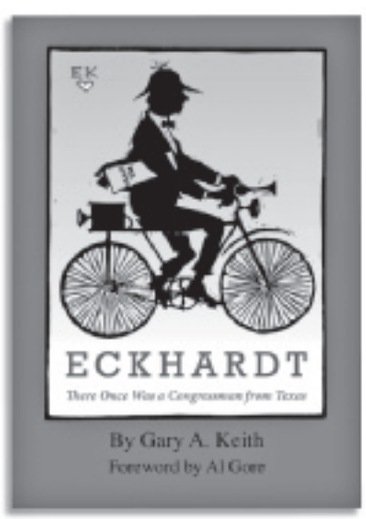
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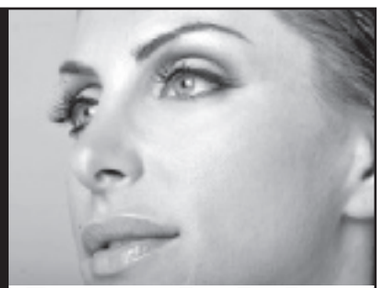
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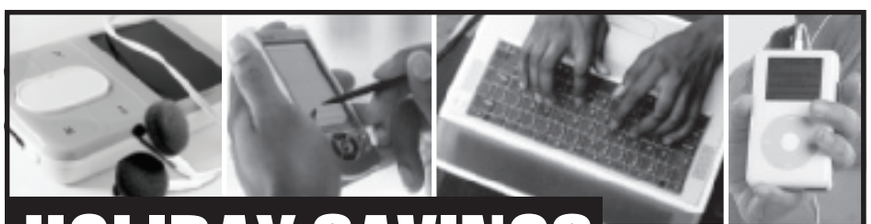


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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

ATTN: HEATHER MILLS "'Tis easier for a rich man to pass through the toe of a camel."

OHN OH! I didn't even want to go out on **Thanksgiving eve** – even though it was my own idea. We wound up seeing **Ohn** at **Club 115**, starring **Bill Sarvers** and **Allison Scharf**, among others. Bill is the electronica god, and Allison's haunting downtempo vocals conjure up sounds of **Nico**, **Mazzy Star**, and **Marianne Faithfull**. So mesmerized by her sound and beauty, I practically tackled Allison after her performance, grilling her with questions and basting her with compliments. "Miss Scharf," I finally said, "your trancelike sound and performance are fabulous, and you are beautiful." "Thank you," she murmured modestly. "*But*," I continued, "the stage appearance needs some work. The dynamic undertones of your style *scream* for different stage clothes, and your haircut is great but needs some more dramatic styling for performances." Prepared to be slugged by Miss Scharf for my impudence, I was shocked to find that instead she gratefully replied "I'd love help with that." We're currently booking our assault on the right stores; in the meantime *you* should be making arrangements to attend Ohn's next performance.



Ohn brings electronica to an entirely new dimension.

SVEN FRENZEL

A-LISTED I came across the ***Forbes*** magazine list of "**The 20 Most Intriguing Billionaire Heiresses**." I'm so envious I could die. I had no idea such a list existed. But of course, aren't *all* billionaire heiresses intriguing? (Remember when a heiresses were described as "madcap"? It was always ma heiresses – *never* madcap c women or madcap urologists What was the application pr like? Did they have to provid check stubs? Photos with ot billionaire heiresses? Did the have to take a psychological to determine their fitness as heiress? NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**'s younger daughter, **Georgina**, made the list. She founded the **Rider's Closet**, which donates used riding gear and equipment to underprivileged equestriennes (I'm guessing that means any of the girls who are *not* on the list of "The 20 Most Intriguing Billionaire Heiresses"). Can you imagine the shame of being the *21st* Most Intriguing Billionaire Heiress and not being able to be on the list? God, you might as well just slip a **Birkin** bag from **Hermès** over your head and suffocate.



THE BIRDS Okay, it always ns like the fun events are for , but on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2- ı, **Birds Barbershop** (2110 S. ıar, 442-8800) will host **Man st**. Featuring arm-wrestling npetitions, a lumberjack photo oth, old-school shoe shines, as ll as confidence-rock DJ sets, ıncing from the **Confidettes**, ıd live music from **Golden ear** at 6pm. Come for a hance to win prizes while enjoyıg wieners (regular and vegie!), complimentary scotch drinks from **Dewar's**, and free beer from **Steamworks Brewing Co**. This event kicks off **Man Month** at Birds, where all men's hair products will be available at half-price with purchase of a haircut. For more info, visit **www.birdsbarbershop.com**.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits:
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food

48 RESTAURANT REVIEWS
51 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

BIG TOP CANDY SHOP

1706 S. Congress, 462-2220

You know what Santa got me for Christmas? A candy store called Big Top Candy Shop. It's less than a block from my house and is chock-full of all the sweets I love. But you know what? I'm generous. We can all share my present.

On the busy thoroughfare of South Congress, nestled between a hair salon and an antiques boutique, sits a little gem of nostalgia, a crimson-and-gold-striped candy store with a real soda counter with real hand-jerked sodas. Now, as a matter of personal record, I've tried the classic **chocolate malt**, the fabled **egg cream**, and the avant-garde **chocolate-chip-cookie-dough-ice-cream-in-root-beer-float** (a concoction of my own design that's surprisingly yummy), all three of which were silly in their delectability.



JOHN ANDERSON

But do they only have sodas? Oh, no. The walls are lined with deliciousness, from hard-to-find **Clark** bars to the more mainstream **3 Musketeers**, from bulk **Jelly Belly** beans to … bacon-flavored toothpicks? (Apparently, they're big sellers, those toothpicks.)

Being a girl with a serious sweet tooth, this plethora of goodies would appeal to me with or without ambience, but lucky for me, I don't have to compromise. Big Top, as its name suggests, is styled after the old-fashioned circus, particularly the sideshow aspect. There's the vintage popcorn machine, the striking posters advertising the Alligator Man and the man with the world's strongest beard, and the wall-mounted trumpets and banjo. The only thing lacking is a seating area, but reliable rumor (if there is such a thing) has it that one is coming.

So if you have visions of sugarplums dancing in your heads, if your appetite is whetted by the Land of Sweets from *The Nutcracker*, then by all means, get yourself over to the Big Top and get your candy on. – *Rosalind Faires*



JOHN ANDERSON

Michael Parker's collection of whiskeys at Opal Divine's

WHISKEY HEAVEN

Austin is about as close to whiskey heaven as you're likely to find between the U.S. and the Isle of Islay. Given the assortment at the Twin Liquors on Balcones Drive and the burgeoning collections at Spec's, Grape Vine Market, and Wiggy's, you can find almost any of the world's great single malts. But the real glory for the Austin whiskey-lover is **Michael Parker**'s collection of the best of the best at **Opal Divine's**.

Parker is a tireless advocate for great drinks, using top-quality ingredients like agave nectar and fresh-pressed fruit juices. But his great love is for the whiskey of Scotland. Not only does he stock more than 65 labels at all of his bars; the collection of rare big guns at the Freehouse on Sixth is mind-boggling.

For the last five years, Parker has spread the love by putting on the mother of all Scots whiskey festivals. This year's version will be the biggest ever. They'll be pouring 50 different single malts covering all nine of the country's production areas. Fans of the obscure will be thrilled to know that even little **Campbeltown** will be included. Representatives from **McCallum**, **Highland Park**, and **Glenfiddich** will be in attendance to talk with you about whiskey, and world liquor superpower **Diageo** will be bringing a few of its premium whiskeys. The brand I'll be looking forward to is **BenRiach**, winner of the Malt Advocate Whisky Award for Distillery of the Year.

Along with the whiskey, Opal's will be offering Scottish appetizers like salmon, smoked meats, fruits, and cheeses.

Here's the best part: Parker is not doing this to get rich. The entry charge is very reasonable at $40 in advance, $45 at the door. And all the proceeds go to the good people at **Meals on Wheels and More**. Just think: You can enjoy some great whiskey, hear fascinating stories, and help a worthy organization.

See you there. – *Wes Marshall*

Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress. Thursday, Dec. 6, 7-10pm. For more info, call 707-0237.

EVENT MENU DEC. 1-9

▶ Organizers of the **Sustainable Shoppers Ball** at the Sunset Valley Farmers Market (Toney Burger parking lot on Highway 290 West, **www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org**) invite you to the second annual **Green Holiday Festival** this weekend. More than 60 local vendors and educators will present environmentally sustainable products, services, and strategies. Shop for "green" Christmas gifts, and eat healthy local organic foods while the kids play and participate in fascinating learning activities, all to the sounds of solar-powered rock & roll! For more info, call 535-4804 or see **www.sustain-a-ball.org**. Saturday, Dec. 1, 9am-2pm.

▶ The **Texas Hill Country Holiday Wine Trail** is in full swing for the next two weekends. Shop for wine-related Christmas gifts, wine books, and Texas artisan foods in addition to tasting wines at **Texas Hills Vineyard** (830/868-2321, **www.texashillsvineyard.com**) outside Johnson City. Farther up the road near Stonewall, **Becker Vineyards** (830/644-2681, **www.beckervineyards.com**) offers lavender products plus a Port and Stilton tasting and shots of Port. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 1, 2, 8, & 9, noon-6pm.

▶ The **Texas Culinary Academy** (11400 Burnet Rd., 837-2665) is calling for entries in their sixth annual **Gingerbread House Competition**, open to everyone from kids to culinary professionals. Houses will be judged on overall appearance, creativity, difficulty, execution, and theme; prizes will be awarded for first through third place and Best in Show. Entries must be delivered to the TCA campus between 8am and 5pm on Friday, Dec. 7; winners will be announced during the Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 8. The houses will remain on display at the school through Dec. 19. For entry info, contact pastry program director chef Aimee Olson at 837-2665 x179 or **aolson@tca.org**. – *V.B.W.*

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Small-Business Holiday Ideas

'Tis the season for planning that holiday party, and have I got some great ideas – the good news is that all these businesses still have some holiday dates available if you act quickly!

• **Sicola's – A Culinary Experience**, *5416 Parkcrest, 323-6907.* This cozy Northwest Austin event venue comes complete with custom menus designed by chef Stephen Sicola and wine consultation from manager Melanie Wiltz. The restaurant location can accommodate 40-45 guests for a seated meal and 65-70 for a cocktail reception. Chef Sicola also offers entertaining interactive cooking classes complete with wine-pairing suggestions. They do off-premise catering, as well. Check out photos of the facility and sample menus at **www.sicolas.com**.

• **Ciao Chow Catering Special Events Center**, *6019 N. I-35, 301-4443.* Culinary Academy of Austin graduate chef Mark Bradley is one of the few Austin caterers with his own mobile kitchen – a completely tricked-out former UPS truck bearing the company logo. When Bradley's business volume outgrew the truck, he began searching for a commercial kitchen and discovered 1,000 square feet of kitchen space attached to a former restaurant location in a strip center at the corner of North I-35 and Highway 290. The price was right, so he set about turning the restaurant interior into a functional, attractive special-event venue offering 1,500 square feet of meeting and reception space. Ciao Chow can seat 50-75 guests inside and another 60 on the outside patio, where smoking is permitted, or it can accommodate 100-150 for cocktail receptions. Chef Bradley will customize menus for any event or dietary restriction (ask about his gluten-free menus), or you can rent the venue and hire other caterers. Check out the building's floor plan and some sample menus at **www.ciao-chow.com**.

• **Eastside Cafe**, *2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858*, and **Yellow Tape Performance Company**. These two Manor Road neighbors have come up with an ingenious plan to offer small businesses or groups a unique holiday celebration opportunity. Groups of 12-30 can enjoy a two-course dinner with a glass of wine at Eastside Cafe starting at 6pm and then make the short trip down the street to the **Salvage Vanguard Theater**, *2803 Manor Rd.*, where Yellow Tape is presenting *The Ultimate Christmas Musical: The Musical!*, an original mixed-media, interactive adult production, at 8pm. Thursday evenings, Dec. 6, 13, & 20; $90-110 per head, depending on the menu chosen. For reservations, contact Amanda Butterfield, co-artistic director, at 466-5221 or **amanda@yellowtape.org**.

• **Fête Accompli**, *917 W. 12th, 478-3383.* Caterer **Quincy Adams Erickson** has a new company and a new base of operations in the former Gina's Kitchen near Downtown. She plans a retail operation for this space in early 2008, but during the holiday season she's catering events and preparing custom cocktail appetizer platters for clients to pick up. Call to discuss dates and menu offerings.

ZUZU HANDMADE MEXICAN FOOD

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All of ZuZu's signs and menus proclaim in large block letters: "Handmade Mexican Food." It's not just an empty slogan; proprietors Russell and Laura Arnold are quite dedicated to the concept and have zero interest in preparing food any other way. "Virtually everything we serve is prepared on the premises," says Russell, "and we make it all the freshest, healthiest way we know how." Not only are all the salsas, sauces, and side dishes made in-house daily; ZuZu goes the extra mile and bakes its own double-cream flan, mixes its own signature rosemary-lime vinaigrette, and pats out its own fragrant corn tortillas.

The Arnolds are equally serious about keeping it healthy. ZuZu does not use lard; instead, the refried black beans are made with olive oil, *epazote*, and vegetable stock. The Spanish rice is also made with vegetable stock and is studded with peas and freshly diced carrots. In addition to enchiladas, tacos, burritos, and other favorites, ZuZu offers entrée salads topped with grilled fish, chicken, and steak. These things have made ZuZu a favorite with the health- and fitness-conscious, as well as with parents of young children.

Restaurant REVIEWS

The flavor, happily, remains pure Mexican; both ZuZu locations are staffed largely by the extended families of sisters Maria Hernandez and Fausta Cornejo. The sisters, both managers at ZuZu, originally hail from the Michoacán region, and their skill keeps the authentic flavor of Interior Mexico in every dish.

One look at the fresh salsa bar, and you know you're in for a first-rate meal. Nestled in a huge quantity of crushed ice are huge bowls of salsa: roasted poblano red table salsa, well-balanced and versatile; dried cascabel-chile salsa, very mild, thin, and smooth; chunky pico de gallo; and ZuZu's unimpeachable roasted tomatillo salsa verde. Truly, the salsa verde is perfection: mild yet robust, complex, flavorful, and unforgettable. Along with the salsas are bowls of freshly chopped onions, generous lemon and lime wedges, minced fresh serranos, heaps of fresh cilantro leaves, and chilled sour cream.

When ZuZu opened in 1984 on Bee Caves Road, it was part of a small chain of franchises. As the chain grew, the corporate bosses wanted the stores to move away from fresh ingredients and use cheaper, mass-produced foodstuffs. The Arnolds rebelled and convinced the ZuZu chain to cut them loose. They relocated to North Austin and ever since have been an independent, locally owned restaurant. (The rest of the chain, deservedly, went under.)

What they did retain from the early days are clean, brightly colored dining areas and speed. Every dish is handmade to order; nevertheless, the food comes out very promptly. The ZuZu ambience is low-maintenance, flooded with sunlight, and kid-friendly, whether you're inside or on the patio. (Every time I've been in, there have been families with children, no doubt because ZuZu offers a sizable, inexpensive children's menu.) The regular menu is extensive, as well, even before you add in the daily chalkboard specials. Nearly all of ZuZu's entrées offer two of their five side dishes: rice, black beans, roasted corn relish, ancho-roasted potatoes, and green salad. After a lifetime of Spanish rice and refried beans, I'm impressed (and grateful) when there are other choices. The roasted corn relish is starchy and sweet, served chilled, and dressed with rosemary-lime vinaigrette. The green salad is dressed with the same dressing, which is light and pleasant. The roasted potatoes, however, get the gold star; diced into bite-sized pieces, lightly seasoned, and hot from the oven, they are delightful.

The ZuZu queso and chips ($3.75) is a nice big tub of smooth, deceptively thin queso with intense cheese flavor and undertones of roasted poblano. The migas platter ($5.25) holds its own against any in town: The eggs are scrambled with sautéed red bell peppers and onions, chopped poblanos, corn chips, and mozzarella cheese, and served with a side of roasted potatoes and fresh fruit. The queso-topped chimichanga ($6.95), filled with rice, beans, and mozzarella, is the perfect size and has a wonderful texture – the flour tortilla crisp yet slightly softened by the hot queso. But it's the Catfish BBQ Tacos ($7.95) that will keep me coming back. The soft corn tortilla contrasts sublimely with the crunchy exterior of the sweet catfish. Nestled alongside the spicy fish are slices of cool avocado and daubs of tangy barbecue sauce. It's a flawless blend of flavors and textures.



JOHN ANDERSON

ZuZu's flan was voted Best Flan by *The Austin Chronicle* in 2001, and once you try it, you'll be loathe to leave without ordering it. It's outrageously creamy, with a dense texture and pronounced vanilla flavor. Both locations serve iced tea, mango-peach caffeine-free iced tea, a variety of soft drinks, fresh lemon- and limeade, coffee, and beer. The newly opened West Lake location has frozen margaritas, as well. *– Kate Thornberry*



JOHN ANDERSON

HABANERO MEXICAN CAFE

501 W. Oltorf, 416-0443
Sunday-Monday, 7am-3pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 7am-5pm; Friday-Saturday, 7am-9pm

AusTex old-timers may fondly remember Dos Hermanos Restaurant, in the little house near the southeast corner of South First and Oltorf. Habanero Mexican Cafe owner Arturo Ibarra is the son of one of the previous Hermanos and, with wife Evelyn, has run the business in the manner of their predecessors for 10 years. It's one of my favorites for south-of-the-border eats; everything I've tried here has been superb.

All of the marinated meats used in the tacos, enchiladas, and plates come off of a mesquite grill. The beef fajita rancheros plate ($8.95) is a sizzling cast-iron platter with thick strips of tender skirt steak bursting with flavor, mixed with strips of onion, jalapeño, and bell pepper – easily enough to fill three tortillas. On the side are excellent savory rice, wonderful soupy charro beans (loaded with bacon, jalapeño slices, and onions), pico de gallo, and chunky guacamole. This is fajita perfection. Enchiladas ($6.50) made with that same meat and topped with a zippy red sauce are fantastic.

The steak ranchero platter ($7.95) is two large, thin, tender, stacked cuts of tasty *bisteca* beef, topped with grilled onions, serrano chile strips, and diced tomato, served with the fajita sides – enough to fill four tortillas, and every bite delicious.

We tried tacos containing other grilled options ($1.75-2). The chicken fajita taco is tender and loaded with smoky, spicy taste. The *lengua* (tongue) is unctuous, practically melting in your mouth. The succulently tender pork chile colorado is sublime, as is the carne guisado: tender cubes of meat in a thick, garlicky gravy kissed with cumin.

A specialty is the gordita ($3.50), made with your choice of the assorted meats; we chose pork al pastor. Habanero's version is presented clamshell-style: two light masa "buns" enclosing a layer of refried beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, and their excellent citrusy, smoky al pastor pork. It's more like a masa hamburger than a puffed-up grease ball that's typical in lesser restaurants.

Breakfast is offered all day and not to be missed. Any configuration of plump breakfast taco is available ($1.25-2). Being fans of the machacado taco ($1.50), we couldn't resist. The air-dried shredded beef made famous in a small village just north of Monterrey is mixed with scrambled eggs, nice with their green salsa, a thick, garlicky serrano chile puree with cilantro. Habanero serves definitive platter versions of migas ($5.50), and recommended are the chori-migas ($5.95): You guessed it, migas made with ungreasy chorizo. Lunch specials are offered between 11am and 3pm for $5.25. They change by the day, but take note that the chicken *mole* is on Friday. There's beer, Mexican and domestic, but no liquor. We sampled both the refreshingly sweet-tart homemade lemonade and the lush vanilla-and-cinnamon-scented horchata rice drink; both are $2 and worth every penny.

The menu may seem carnivore-centric, but there are veggie and fish options. For the vegans, they do a nice-looking grill of roasted poblano chile strips, squash, tomato, mushrooms, and onions, with or without cheese and/or rice. We can't wait to try the catfish rancheros done fajita-style: two catfish fillets under grilled chiles, onions, and peppers.

Habanero seats about 60, which means a wait during busy times is probable. Thankfully, the service is efficient and welcoming, and the food comes out fast. The short delay for food is easy, noshing on their chips and rich and spicy salsa: a thick puree of tomato, lots of chiles and garlic, and a dab of cilantro (the first basket is free; the next one costs). Great small places this good scream for the eat-but-don't-tell rule, but Habanero is too good to keep a secret.

– Mick Vann

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DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: **KATZ'S DELI & BAR** New York, New York! Austin's own posh-nosh, a sit-down deli for the late-night crowd. ***618 W. Sixth, 472-2037.*** **www.katzneverkloses.com**. ***$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **MOONSHINE PATIO BAR & GRILL** Features an affordable American regional menu and a busy bar. The macaroni and cheese will make you forget where you parked. ***303 Red River, 236-9599.*** **www.moonshinegrill.com**. ***$$$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **ARTURO'S BAKERY & CAFE** Shouldered in between El Mercado and Galeria Sin Fronteras, you'll find Mexican fare, sandwiches, burgers, smoothies ... and knock-wurst! ***314 W. 17th, 469-0380. $***

BARBECUE: **IRON WORKS BARBECUE** The Works retains its neighborly charm, with modest prices and self-serve beer offered from tin coolers. ***100 Red River, 478-4855.*** **www.ironworksbbq.com**. ***$$***

CAJUN/CREOLE: **THE BOILING POT** Fresh boiled seafood of every variety: shrimp, blue crabs, oysters on the half shell, crawfish (in season), boudin, gumbo, and red beans & rice. ***700 E. Sixth, 472-0985. $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **JO'S HOT COFFEE** You'll find an array of pastries and breakfast tacos early, and later in the day look for sandwiches, salads, burgers, and a few hot plates. ***242 W. Second, 469-9003.*** **www.joscoffee.com**. ***$***

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **CIBO** Chef Will Packwood's long-anticipated return to the restaurant scene lives up to expectations, delivering elegant, traditional Italian dishes with vibrant flavors, excellent service, and a comprehensive wine list. ***918 Congress, 478-3663.*** **www.ciborestaurant.com**. ***$$***

FINE DINING, PACIFIC RIM: **KENICHI** Offering freshly ground wasabi root, more than 20 different types of *sake*, and Kobe beef carpaccio, the trendiness of its clientele is matched equally by its decor. ***419 Colorado, 320-8883.*** **www.kenichiaustin.com**. ***$$$***

FINE DINING, SEAFOOD: **EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Fine dining in a supper-club atmosphere with live music almost every night. They specialize in fresh seafood, oysters, and prime beef. ***301 E. Fifth, 472-1860.*** **www.eddiev.com**. ***$$$$***

JUICE BAR, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: **LIVING FOODS BAR AT WHOLE FOODS** Über-healthy living-foods bar and "deli" case offering Austin's largest selection of all-raw entrées, juices, smoothies, desserts, and salads. ***525 N. Lamar, 476-1206.*** **www.wholefoodsmarket.com**. ***$$***

PACIFIC RIM: **ROY'S AUSTIN** This is Hawaiian cuisine fused with the flavors of Western Europe. If you're not sure what to order, try one of Roy's Classics, like the Yellow Fin Ahi Poketini. ***340 E. Second, 391-1500.*** **www.roysrestaurant.com**. ***$$***

STEAKHOUSE: **III FORKS STEAKHOUSE** If you're looking for prime, aged beef, great wine pairings, traditional steakhouse sides, and a full bar, this is the place to go. ***111 Lavaca, 474-1776.*** **www.iiiforks.com**. ***$$$***

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE: **ARKIE'S GRILL** This cafe has been around since 1948, maintaining the same super-home-style menus and hospitable spirit. Thursday's turkey-and-dressing special is highly recommended. ***4827 E. Cesar Chavez, 385-2986. $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** The newest addition to Eastside's own restaurant row offers a full menu of coffee beverages, paninis, salads, and pastries from Russell's Bakery. ***2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900.*** **www.clementinecoffeebar.com**. ***$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **RIO RITA** Go during the day for soups, kolaches, miniquiches, vegetarian wraps, and don't forget the Inca Burger! Go by night for wine and good company. ***1308 E. Sixth, 478-3934.*** **www.riorita.net**. ***$***

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **LOS COMALES GRACIELA** Expert purveyors of real Norteño-style grilled meats and side dishes. Reliable Interior dishes such as *puerco en chile colorado* and *pollo en mole poblano* round out the menu. ***2136 E. Seventh, 480-9358. $$***

ITALIAN: **STORTINI RISTORANTE** This appealing pasta house is a welcome addition to the mix along Manor Road restaurant row. Try the Rigatoni Coniglio and the Linguini con Shrimp Scampi. ***1917 Manor Rd., 391-9500.*** **www.stortini-austin.com**. ***$$***

MIDDLE EASTERN: **THE PYRAMIDS** Chicken Shwarma Wraps, moussaka, and Lebanese iced tea convinced us to come back for dinner, and dinner is what convinced us to keep coming back for more. ***6019 N. I-35, 302-9600. $$***

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **TONY'S SOUTHERN COMFORT RESTAURANT** Rib-sticking soul-style: Find home-cooked Southern meats and chicken (with waffles), fantastic sides, and speedy lunch specials. ***1201 E. Sixth, 320-8801. $$***

TEX-MEX: **ABARROTES MEXICANOS** This family has been making breakfast tacos and lunch plates for this neighborhood for more than nine years. Coming soon is their new Mexican import shop in the back. ***901 Tillery, 926-1709. $***

TEX-MEX: **ANGIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT** This homey restaurant serves up Tex-Mex breakfasts and huge $6 lunch specials. Their incredible homemade corn tortillas are one of their many claims to fame. ***900 E. Seventh, 476-5413. $$***

TEX-MEX: **EL CHILITO** Fresh, fast, and portable: That's what you can expect from this festive corner taqueria. Don't miss the *conchinita* in fresh corn tortillas or the great *paleta* selection. ***2219 Manor Rd., 382-3797.*** **www.elchilito.com**. ***$***

TEX-MEX: **TAQUERIA ARANDAS #1** Mexican breakfasts, sweet *horchata*, and the sunny red and white interior could whisk the fog out of anyone's morning brain. ***3518 E. Seventh, 389-3834. $***

LAKE

ITALIAN: **TUTTO GUSTO** This family-friendly eatery offers a full bar for you and a popular playscape for the kids. Enjoy the pizza, pastas, and affordable entrées indoors or out. ***4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd., 266-2221.*** **www.tuttogusto.com**. ***$$***

SOUTHWESTERN: **THE OASIS** Live music and great food continue on the Terrace as repairs are made to the rest of the "sunset capital of Texas." Still the perfect ending for a day on the lake. ***6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442.*** **www.oasis-austin.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **FLORES MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Still offering delicious grilled items, affordable lunch specials, friendly service, and good margaritas. ***1310 RR 620 S., 263-9546.*** **www.floresmexican.com**. ***$$***

NORTH

BARBECUE: **BONE DADDY'S HOUSE OF SMOKE** Your waitress may resemble a runaway who's lost her clothing, but don't call the cops – just order the ribs. ***11617 Research Bldg. 1, 346-3025.*** **www.bonedaddys.com**. ***$$***

CHINESE, INDIAN: **MASALA WOK** Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok-cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. ***1100 Center Ridge, 251-9696.*** **www.masalawok.com**. ***$***

CHINESE: **SUPER CHINA** The old China Garden location still offers spiced-up standards that leave you red-faced and satisfied. They also have a daily lunch buffet. ***11657 Research, 527-8888. $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **MAYNARD'S DELI & GRILL** Try the Jethro Sub, a behemoth made with pastrami, salami, bologna, and baked ham. Also find big, juicy burgers, chicken breasts, and patty melts right off the grill. ***10205 N. Lamar #135, 834-1068. $***

INDIAN: **SHALIMAR** Pakistani food that's second to none and a *gosht karahi* that'll really get your goat. Try the buffet, but it's even better to take a chance on the menu items. ***9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700.*** **www.shalimar-austin.com**. ***$$***

ITALIAN: **BUCA DI BEPPO** This national chain serves "immigrant Southern Italian" cuisine. Dishes are served family-style or personalized for two with smaller portions. ***3612 Tudor, 342-8462.*** **www.bucadibeppo.com**. ***$$$***

JAPANESE: **MIKADO RYOTEI** Not just for sushi, Mikado also serves Japanese tapas, or *robata*, a mix of grilled seafood, meats, and vegetables. Great date spot. ***9033 Research, 833-8188.*** **www.mikadoryotei.com**. ***$$$***

PAN-ASIAN: **MAMA FU'S ASIAN HOUSE** Find a 100%-MSG-free menu with all of your favorites, from noodle bowls to potstickers. ***11301 Lakeline Blvd. #300, 637-6771.*** **www.mamafusaustin.com**. ***$$***

SEAFOOD: **PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR** An even mix of fried vs. broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun lilt. ***13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373. $$***

SOUTH AMERICAN: **CAFE MANGÙ** *Muy autentico* from Dominica, Cuba, and Puerto Rico served lovingly from a bright-yellow house. Enjoy *lechón* pork that melts in your mouth, a killer Cubano sandwich, or *ropa vieja* by the pound. ***15200 FM 1825, 990-3121. $$***

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE: **HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL** Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know. But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, such as fish, chicken, and beef. ***4206 Duval St., 458-3168. $$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NEWORLDELI** This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than $5. ***4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **DOLCE VITA INTERNATIONAL BAR** Offers a delicious assortment of handmade Italian ice creams and fruit sorbets, along with a variety of coffee drinks, spirits, and cordials. ***4222 Duval St., 323-2686. $***

BURGER JOINT, TEX-MEX: **ALONZO'S/JALAPEÑO JOE'S** Present yourself at the window, and order an Angus beef burger or the pile of Tex-Mex sustenance known as the Alonzo Platter, but save room for Ernest's Enchiladas. ***4905 Airport, 451-3326. $***

continued on p.52







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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.51

CHINESE, JAPANESE: **PEI WEI ASIAN DINER** A sleek diner atmosphere and affordable favorites keep us coming back for lunch and dinner. Choose your own combinations for noodle and rice bowls. ***1000 E. 41st (Hancock Center), 382-3860.*** **www.peiwei.com**. *$*

ITALIAN: **MANDOLA'S ITALIAN MARKET** This market/restaurant from Houston's Mandola clan is attracting crowds with imported Italian deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked rustic breads and pastries, and homemade gelatos and sorbettos. Enjoy well-selected wines by the bottle and the glass and prepared foods to eat in or take out. ***4700 Guadalupe #12, 419-9700.*** **www.mandolasmarket.com**. *$*

JAPANESE, KOREAN: **KIMCHI SUSHI** Simply decorated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features a menu of Korean favorites. ***6406 N. I-35 #2343, 453-4111. $$***

TEX-MEX: **TAMALE HOUSE** An Airport Boulevard institution, they offer authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete, and forget about tamales; they actually do not serve them. ***5003 Airport, 453-9842.*** **www.myspace.com/tamalehouse**. *$*

THAI: **THAI VILLAGE** Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. ***6406 N. I-35, 452-3888.*** **www.thaivillageaustin.com**. *$$*

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: **FREDDIE'S PLACE** Go there for burgers, chicken-fried steak, Frito pie, chili-cheese dogs, nachos, barbecue, homemade desserts, and a full bar. Great deck and backyard area in an old oak grove. ***1703 S. First, 445-9197.*** **www.freddiesplaceaustin.com**. *$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **ZAX PINTS & PLATES** Find American bistro cuisine here: fluffy crab cakes, classic Caesar salad, and meaty burgers with blue cheese. Also known for a large selection of great beers on tap. ***312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100.*** **www.zaxaustin.com**. *$$*

CHINESE: **NG HOUSE** A spare and spiffily clean Cantonese oasis for the Chinese-deprived in South Austin. You'll find a huge menu, big portions at low prices, and great specials. ***6800 West Gate Blvd. #112, 416-9888.*** **www.nghouse.net**. *$*

CHINESE: **WANFU TOO** The Fifties diner setting is as comforting as the usual Chinese menu choices like egg drop soup, egg rolls, and lots of choices for main dishes. ***1806 Barton Springs Rd., 478-3535.*** **www.wanfuaustin.com**. *$$*

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Offers a reasonably priced Italian menu and a large wine list. Try the crab cannelloni, definitive spaghetti and meatballs, and the intense desserts. ***2201 College, 443-4200.*** **www.treehousegrill.com**. *$$*

ITALIAN: **GYPSY ITALIAN BISTRO** Northern Italian like you've never had it. Start with the Frico, a tradition of fried Montasio cheese and potato crepe, with some cornbread *panzanella*; then check out the grilled fish of the day. ***1025 Barton Springs, 499-0200.*** **www.go2gypsy.com/index.html**. *$$$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Just a shout away from the former Armadillo World Headquarters, there are several music and food combos on the menu here, including a gospel brunch on Sundays. ***301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.*** **www.threadgills.com**. *$$*

SOUTHWESTERN: **SOUTH CONGRESS CAFE** The inspired Southwestern fare at this relaxed, upscale eatery features blue-corn crepes and beef Milanesa, a traditional dish with an inventive, spicy spin. Other distinctive dishes include venison meat loaf and Cajun scampi. ***1600 S. Congress, 447-3905.*** **www.southcongresscafe.com**. *$$*

TEX-MEX: **EL GALLO** Austin-style Tex-Mex since the Fifties. Family-owned for 42 years. Try the cabrito, and stay for the mariachi trio that plays Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. ***2910 S. Congress, 444-6696.*** **www.elgallorestaurant.com**. *$$*

TEX-MEX: **JOVITA'S** Part community center, part restaurant, part music venue, and all fun. Honest Tex-Mex and ice-cold beer. Check out Cornell Hurd on Thursdays. ***1619 S. First, 447-7825.*** **www.jovitas.com**. *$$*

TEX-MEX: **MAUDIE'S HACIENDA** In this "Tex-Mex Heaven" they serve breakfast every day and make their margaritas with fresh-squeezed juices. But no sign of guardian angels, and they still charge for the food. ***9911 Brodie, 280-8700.*** **www.maudies.com**. *$$*

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: **MR. NATURAL** Both a health-food grocery and 100% vegetarian restaurant. Don't miss the cucumber salad, the perfect cool accompaniment to dishes like napolitos, enchiladas verdes, and *soya guisada*. ***2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223.*** **www.mrnatural-austin.com**. *$*

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: **CAIN & ABEL'S** This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but also serves salads, soups, wraps, and breakfast tacos all day. ***2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201.*** **www.cainandabels.com**. *$*

CHINESE: **YEN CHING NOODLE HOUSE** Get your noodle fix with homemade noodles and fantastic Ma Po Dofu. ***2910 Guadalupe, 472-4754. $***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NAU'S PHARMACY** A traditional, old-fashioned, mom-and-pop drug store, with soda fountain/diner, office supplies, and a decent selection of cards and gifts. Not many of these places left. ***2406 San Gabriel, 476-1544. $***

FINE DINING: **MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL** Gracious decor, rich draperies, deluxe furnishings, and balanced, well-chosen seasonal flavors make this the perfect choice for any occasion. ***1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800.*** **www.mansionatjudgeshill.com**. *$$$$*

ITALIAN: **PICCOLO ITALIAN CAFE** Don't just try them for the variety of house-made pastas and wood-fired pizzas. Try the hot and cold appetizers and the chicken, seafood, and veal entrées. ***2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600. $$***

MIDDLE EASTERN, PIZZA: **ITALIAN LONGHORN PIZZERIA** You can enjoy Middle Eastern fare such as falafel, gyros, dolmas, and tabouli at this popular pizzeria. ***415 W. 24th, 457-4992. $***

PIZZA: **MILTO'S** Longtime UT-area institution serving both Italian and Greek specialties. The wonderful weekday lunch specials are both filling and cheap. ***2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021. $$***

TEX-MEX: **EL PATIO** These friendly folks have been serving up moderately priced Tex-Mex food with salsa and saltines since 1954. ***2938 Guadalupe, 476-5955. $$***

TEX-MEX: **HORNITOS TEX-MEX CAFE** You'll get a square deal and a fresh meal at this no-frills Tex-Mex spot. ***3704 N. I-35, 524-4195. $$***

THAI: **MADAM MAM'S** Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai home-style dishes served in this popular campus-area spot are "Mam's" family recipes. ***2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306.*** **www.madammam.com**. *$$*

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **A TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL BAKERY AND CAFE** Lunchtime finds a crowd enjoying comforting soups and distinctive sandwiches, such as the fried green tomato BLT. Don't overlook the cookies, luxuriously decorated cupcakes, and the fabulous pies. ***3201 Bee Caves Rd., 328-7100.*** **www.atriptobountiful.com**. *$*

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: **34TH STREET CAFE** A neighborhood place that tries to keep everyone happy. Among the standards there are some delicious jewels, if you're willing to seek them out. ***1005 W. 34th, 371-3400.*** **www.34thstreetcafe.com**. *$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **HANG TOWN GRILL** Jetson-era family restaurant with gourmet pizzas and mesquite burgers for Mom and Dad and combo meals for kids. Outdoor patio. ***701 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 347-1039.*** **www.hangtowngrill.com**. *$$*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **RUSSELL'S BAKERY & COFFEE BAR** A fine assortment of cakes, cookies, and sandwiches along with coffee, juices, and Italian sodas. The peanut-butter-and-chocolate-chip cookie is a tasty reward. ***3339 Hancock, 419-7877.*** **www.russellsbakery.com**. *$*

CHINESE: **P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO NORTH** Depend on this popular chain for Chinese favorites and enthusiastic service in a pleasant atmosphere. ***10114 Jollyville, 231-0208.*** **www.pfchangs.com**. *$$*

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screens

56 'THE WHOLE SHOOTIN' MATCH'
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When There's Nothing Left to Burn ... Cinematexas throws itself a Viking Funeral

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

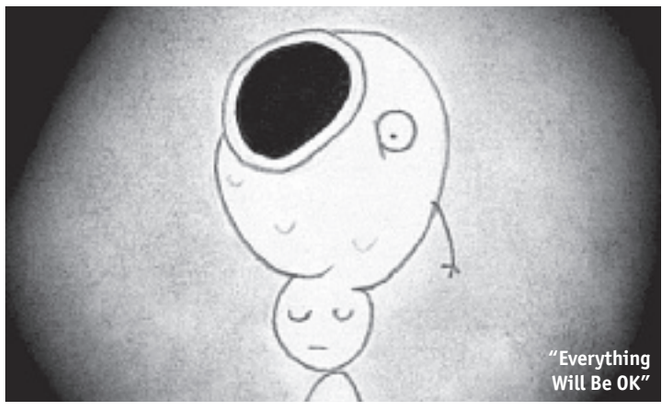
This week marks the end of the road for the Cinematexas International Short Film Festival. After spending the last 10 years promoting experimental, avant-garde, and just-plain-strange film, the University of Texas-sponsored showcase has lost its funding and its offices and is shutting down operations for good. All that's left now is the burying.

But like any group of artists worth the name, the minds behind Cinematexas know there's something vital that exists between death and burial. A quality funeral can go a long way toward securing the deceased's legacy, burning its memory onto mourners' minds, and – in the case of a rebellious, gritty, student-run movie showcase like Cinematexas – giving its proud parents one last shot at blowing audiences' heads.

So in that spirit of defiant resignation, two of the group's board members – festival co-founder Bryan Poyser and former curator-at-large (and current *Chronicle* contributor) Spencer Parsons – have come up with one last weekend of screenings, the Cinematexas Viking Funeral, which will take filmgoers out into the farthest reaches of the cinema universe one final time before turning around and burning itself, with great enthusiasm, to the ground. "We were upset the festival went out with a whimper," Poyser told me last week. "We wanted a bang."

That bang begins Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm at the 501 Theatre (aka Valhalla, aka Hall of the Slain) with Ragna-Rock, a compilation of work by several Cinematexas alumni filmmakers, followed at 7pm by the Hollywood Showcase, a collection of films by current UT students that screened this past September at the Directors Guild of America Theatre in Los Angeles.

At 9:15pm the curators will bring back "Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud" by underground favorite Todd Haynes, which first showed at the festival back in 2003. With Haynes' skewed new Bob Dylan biopic, *I'm Not There*, in theatres now, interest in this rarely screened short film about another moody rebel poet with unruly hair has been revived.



"Everything Will Be OK"

The service continues at 501 Theatre on Sunday at 2pm with Ragna-Roll, the second half of the Cinematexas alumni compilation (see Ragna-Rock, above), and then at 4:30pm with a screening of the feature-length *Interkosmos*, a musical about a failed Eastern European space-colonization mission written and directed by former Cinematexan Jim Finn.

And finally, that night at 7pm, Poyser and Parsons will move the show Downtown to the brand-new Alamo Ritz on Sixth Street for an already sold-out screening of Don Hertzfeldt's animated short "Everything Will Be OK" and Ronald Bronstein's *Frownland*, a feature film Poyser says they chose for the finale because of its stylistic kinship to what he calls "your typical Cinematexas short film." "It's grubby," he explains. "It's made on an obsolete medium – 16mm – with the sensibilities of one single delusional person. It's provocative, annoying, grating, energizing, funny, exciting, and different."

And then, with all due ceremony, the *SS Cinematexas* will be set aflame and pushed out to sea, never to be heard from again. Poyser tells me that many of the student films screened at the festival over the years have been donated to the UT film archives, perhaps to be pulled out of storage once in a while to satisfy curious minds. As for the rest, they'll turn to smoke and ash along with Cinematexas itself, that "avant-garde rebel event" that was, in the end, more interested in pushing boundaries than saving itself. ■

Man of a Thousand Faces Vincent Gallo makes music in Austin



"I am not a reactionary or a provocateur," says maverick filmmaker and musician Vincent Gallo via telephone from Los Angeles. "I think completely on my own. Whatever it is that comes from me comes from whatever thing is making me laugh at that moment, whatever I think is funny, whatever I think is missing. Actually whatever I think is missing is more influential than anything else."

Equally detested and adored, Gallo is as well-known for dating Paris Hilton, modeling for Calvin Klein, and receiving onscreen fellatio from Chloë Sevigny in the critically savaged *The Brown Bunny* as he is for his 1998 masterwork, *Buffalo '66*.

"Do you really think I spent 3½ years making a movie, losing my house, losing my girlfriend, going to the hospital twice with a nervous breakdown, losing my life savings, losing my hair, you know, so that I could be blown by Chloë Sevigny?" asks Gallo.

On his breakthrough *Buffalo '66*, which he wrote, directed, scored, and played the lead alongside an 18-year-old Christina Ricci: "Every idea that I had for that movie I had to fight for … to get on the screen, thinking the whole time no one was ever gonna see this movie. Even the film stock was impossible to develop. So when people embrace the film or when they come up to me and they say, 'Oh it's my favorite; it's so funny,' it's interesting that it has appeal on many levels. It has basic appeal … people can connect with it in all forms. And so that's a surprise; it's nice. But that project was no less inspiring or original to me or coming from me than anything else that I've done."

And he's done a lot: posed for controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, considered Johnny Ramone his best friend, and played in bands with actor Lukas Haas (Bunny) and celebrated artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (Gray).

Putting film aside for the moment, Gallo will be in Austin Monday night as part of a 16-date tour with his new band, RRIICCEE, featuring Eric Erlandson (formerly of Hole), Rebecca Casabian, and Nikolas Haas (Lukas' younger brother). RRIICCEE is not touring to support a CD, has no current plans to go into the studio, and will be composing their music live onstage.

"I enjoy being in a group where everybody is really connected and we're not following the protocol, like we're thinking on our own, whatever it is. If we feel like making a record, we'll make a record. If we don't, we won't. There's nothing fun for me about playing the same songs every night. There's nothing fun for me in using a musical vocabulary that I'm so familiar with and isn't better than me. All I'm interested in doing is making things that are more interesting than me and my own vision and my own level of understanding of them. That's the goal here with this project." – *Mark Fagan*

RRIICCEE performs Monday, Dec. 3, 9:45pm at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. For tickets and more info see **www.alamodrafthouse.com**.

For the unabridged version of this interview with Vincent Gallo, see this story at **austinchronicle.com**.

FILM NEWS

BY JOE O'CONNELL

A HOT, SCARY START TO 2008

Usually the winter months mark hibernation for the Texas film industry, but, perhaps spurred by a combo of the Writers Guild of America strike on the two coasts and a new film-incentives program, this year it's smoking hot. Already scouting locations are the retreaders at Platinum Dunes, who have an unnamed film in the works that most certainly is the announced ***Friday the 13th*** remake and most likely will be shooting hereabouts by February with **Marcus Nispel**, who directed the first Dunes' *Chainsaw* film. In addition, industry insiders note a spike in inquiries for films in the $3 million to $6 million range. Speaking of Fridays, NBC will neither confirm nor deny rumors that if the strike stretches out, they will keep the ***Friday Night Lights*** crew busy by shooting a couple of pilots for a new series here. An NBC rep did firmly deny Internet rumors that the series would be picked up by ESPN.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

Quietly filming this week on the former *The Alamo* set in Dripping Springs is ***Appaloosa***, a Western directed by and starring **Ed Harris**. Also in the cast are **Renée Zellweger** and **Viggo Mortensen**. The bulk of the project was shot in New Mexico, but according to New Line, a "climactic shootout" is lensing here. It's good news for *The Alamo* set, which has been sitting idle since filming ended in 2003, save the occasional commercial shoot and some filming of the low-budget *Gary the Tennis Coach*. Harris' crew spiffed up the Mexican town set, something it sorely needed, says **Bob Hudgins**, head of the Texas Film Commission. "We're hoping to save the Alamo," he says, and a couple of more films shooting there and restoring the set in the process might just do the trick.

'BODY OF WAR' ON OSCAR SHORT LIST

Ellen Spiro's ***Body of War*** has made the short list of 15 docs up for the Best Documentary Feature category for this year's Academy Awards. Spiro, a University of Texas film prof, worked with former talk-show host **Phil Donahue** on this story of the postwar life of Iraq vet Tomas Young, who was paralyzed by a bullet to the spine. Spiro's longtime collaborator **Karen Bernstein** co-produced the film, and **Bernadine Colish** edited it. The five doc Oscar nominees will be announced Jan. 22, with the awards set for Feb. 24.

AND THE REST...

Get jingly with it at **Reel Women**'s holiday party from 7 to 11pm, Dec. 3, at Hi-Lo for a mere $5, and dance/mingle the night away. While you're at it, bring some new socks, gloves, hats, and blankets to help out those in need… The **South by Southwest Film Conference** has paired with **ON Networks** for the Greenlight Awards honoring the best digital series. Submissions will be taken from December through Feb. 15, with the winners announced during SXSW in March. Look for updates at SXSW.com.

Send tips to **filmnews@austinchronicle.com**.

A Second Shot at 'Shootin' Match'

The late Eagle Pennell's debut film gets a new lease on life



Eagle Pennell

INTRODUCTION BY LOUIS BLACK

Certainly this publication has not been shy about trumpeting the discovery of a mint print of Eagle Pennell's 1978 independent regional feature, *The Whole Shootin' Match*. This is not just because the film is a wonderful regional comedy or because it's historically important but because, until this print was discovered in Germany, there has been no decent screening-worthy print available in any format. The film is worth viewing because it is so well-written and -realized, but finding it also restores a missing piece of post-Sundance film history.

The Whole Shootin' Match is having a theatrical run at the Alamo with a DVD release to follow. Accompanying that will be a new documentary on the filmmaker, the creative but hard-living Eagle Pennell. In it, Richard Linklater talks about how seeing the film for the first time made him realize that he could make movies. Linklater was not alone in this realization. The success of *TWSM*, followed by the release of *Return of the Secacus 7* two years later, helped ignite the extraordinary growth in independent film (as Linklater's *Slacker* did a decade later). *TWSM*'s influence was not limited to just inspiring filmmakers. It affected a lot of people. In the documentary, writer and ex-Austinite Paul Cullum talks about how Robert Redford watched the film at the Egyptian Theater in Park City the first year of the U.S. (or USA) Film Festival. Watching *TWSM* inspired Redford to think about how to support independent films and filmmakers. Redford had nothing to do with the festival when he saw the film, but over time he became more involved until it was very much his festival, Sundance.

There are dozens of outrageous stories about Eagle, most having to do with alcohol and resulting escapades. Unfortunately, Pennell's personal weaknesses cut short the most creative period of his filmmaking. Almost as unfortunately, the myth has come to swamp the wonder and importance of his first two feature films, *The Whole Shootin' Match* and *Last Night at the Alamo*. The films are unique in the way they are so clearly made in, about, and of Texas. There is an authenticity to the characters, their lifestyles, and the pace of life that almost all Texas films made by Hollywood completely miss. The loose, easy narratives match this depiction, further enriching them.

If the two films stood alone just as cinematic narrative works, they would be deserving of praise and interest. Given the enormous influence they've had, there is a greater importance to them. Pennell's quite unintentional influence on several generations of independent films and filmmakers shouldn't be underestimated.

The Whole Shootin' Match stars Lou Perryman and Sonny Carl Davis, interviewed below. It's the story of two losers, two dreamers who never give up. Failed scheme follows failed scheme; the film suggests, however, that not getting there can be most of the fun. Austin acting legend Doris Hargrave also stars. The terrific script, by Pennell and Lin Sutherland, is loaded with great dialogue (Sutherland also was co-producer).

I've introduced screenings of *TWSM* a couple of times now. Regrettably, I've gotten way too wrapped up in trying to explain the importance of the film, hoping to convey its significance and its place in contemporary film history. Eagle would have both laughed at me and been pissed off. He would have been right. I ended up missing the forest for the trees and misleading audiences into expecting a *Citizen Kane/Breathless* type revelation. Instead the point is how much the film conveys a time (late Seventies) and place (the Hill Country). It is about how the characters are so richly depicted and so far from typical Texas stereotyping, with a pace that is Texas-storytelling-appropriate, carefully constructed and certainly in not too much of a hurry to get anywhere. Sure *TWSM* is important and influential, but forget that: The talent of Pennell, the cast, and crew resulted in a film that is a very entertaining slice-of-life tale of just plain folks so rarely portrayed honestly in movies, living, dreaming, scheming, and loving.

TWO GUYS WALK INTO A BAR

Lou Perryman and Sonny Carl Davis Drink, Dish

BY MARC SAVLOV

On the eve of the pending DVD release (from Watchmaker Films) and Friday night's Alamo Ritz premiere of the restored and remastered *The Whole Shootin' Match*, the *Chronicle* hit the murk of Casino el Camino and nailed a beer or three with the two people who remain Pennell's greatest assets: *Shootin' Match* stars Lou Perryman and Sonny Carl Davis. It's their easy, exquisitely natural performances – also featured in Pennell's '77 short "Hell of a Note" and '83 feature *Last Night at the Alamo* – that are the binding force in the Eagle Pennell canon. Perryman and Davis, whose 30-year friendship still bleeds the same raw, comic humanity so apparent in their work with Pennell, remain the salt and bedrock of Pennell's finest films. There are, to be sure, a lot of legends and plenty of stories about Pennell and his incrementally roughened life and unfastened times. But the blue-collar Texan truisms of his movies are nowhere more apparent than in Perryman and Davis; ultimately, it's these two who are the stuff Eagle's legend is made of.

Austin Chronicle: *Your characters in Pennell's films have such an easy, utterly convincing rapport. Was that there to begin with, or did it emerge as the two of you became friends in real life?*

Lou Perryman: He had an ugly-ass mustache when I first met him [on "Hell of a Note"]; I remember that much.

Sonny Carl Davis: The rapport grew, I think, because as remains true with acting to this day, there's a feeling-out period, a "can you trust this guy?" period at the beginning of every film. There's power struggles. It can be a battleground or a lovefest.

AC: *Which was it on Eagle's sets?*

SCD: Oh, it was a lovefest. And then we got to know Eagle.

LP: Eagle was the difficult one.

SCD: He sure had all the attitude on the set.

AC: *What made you think he could pull this whole moviemaking thing off to begin with? After all, there wasn't much of an "Austin film community" to speak of back then.*

LP: Well, he was already getting shit done. He had written down his locations, got us a house, got us in over at the Scoot Inn. He just got one thing after another.

SCD: He had help, and Eagle didn't pass along praise that much, bless his heart, but I clearly remember sitting there while doing "Hell of a Note" and thinking, "Well, I guess we're making a film here, and that's pretty cool." In retrospect, the fact that it got done was a miracle, but back in the day, it was just pretty great to be making a movie in Austin in the first place.

LP: And, also, I don't think at the time it seemed *real* to us, because we had day jobs. I was doing a little company that rented out film equipment. I'd be out shooting football games on Saturday and then do Eagle's films on Sunday.

SCD: I was printing T-shirts for Slow Printing Company on Barton Springs Road. They did all the Amardillo World Headquarters shirts. And then a year later or so, when we were doing *The Whole Shootin' Match*, I was bartending at Gordo's on Sixth Street, where we shot some of it.

continued on p.58

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AC: *Speaking of which, where was that hellacious bar fight scene in* The Whole Shootin' Match *actually shot?*

SCD: That was at the Scoot Inn. And that place is still a firetrap, isn't it?

LP: They're doing very well these days, actually. But they still got that goddamn one-curtain crapper in the bathroom.

SCD: We were the one-location guys back then. It was the same with the place in Houston when we did *Last Night at the Alamo*.

AC: *What was a typical Eagle Pennell shooting day on* The Whole Shootin' Match*?*

LP: We'd meet over at my house and start running the scene while taping it, then listen to it through to the end, and then we'd try it again with something maybe a little different. Eagle would say this, that, and the other, and then we'd say this, that, and the other, and that's how the dialogue evolved. Early on we had some pages of script and were trying to work from it. On set, we'd block the scene and then go and sit and listen to the tape, so we knew what we were after. It was like we were sharpening a knife.

SCD: He directed from the camera.

LP: Because he was the camera operator.

SCD: Right. I've always talked about how there are directors who work from the stage to the camera and those who work from the camera to the stage, but the best ones can do both while employing the same depth of vocabulary to talk to the actors as the actors do. But that wasn't Eagle's forte, and we certainly weren't getting into acting technique. I've often said that once he cast us and saw what Lou and I were doing and [actress] Doris [Hargrave] came in, his work was done so long as we were hitting our marks. That was his directing style: Get out of the way, and just let the interplay of the actors happen.

LP: We both grin when we read the old ink about, "Oh, the performances he has elicited from Mr. Perryman and Mr. Davis!"

AC: *Enough has already been written about Eagle's squandering his talents and his alcoholic tailspin, so let me ask you this: What's the best memory you both have of working with the late, great Eagle Pennell?*

SCD: I remember when we got accepted to the U.S./USA Film Festival, which was the predecessor of Sundance. He'd gone next door to get a phone call – I don't think he even had a phone back then – and I can still see him coming across the yard with this big old grin on his face, and he picked me up and hugged me and spun me around like he was coming home from the war, you know? "Oh, my baby's back!" And it was just this one great moment of validation for everything we had done. That's how I like to think of Eagle.

A remastered print of The Whole Shootin' Match *will run at the Alamo Ritz this weekend. Select cast will be in attendance at the 4pm show on Sunday, Dec. 2. For more information, visit* **www.originalalamo.com**.

LP: My favorite memory has to do with his can-do, we-must-get-it-done spirit. At the end of *Shootin' Match*, the very last scene, we were up on the Devil's Backbone, and we ran out of film. We couldn't just come back some other time because the shots wouldn't match, and so he talked us into staying up there overnight – and it was chilly out there – while he drove back into Austin on a Sunday night to track down Gordon Wilkerson, who ran a place called Photo Processors. Turned out Wilk was over at some kind of 'do over at the LBJ Library, so Eagle went over there and waited outside the damn door until Wilk came out, talked him into taking him down to the shop and giving him some film, and then he drove back out to where we were the next morning, so we could finish the film. It took all night, though, so he probably took the opportunity to get himself laid and fucked while he was at it.

SCD: But we got her done, and we did some of our best work up there that morning, under the gun, and it matched perfectly. Eagle. Shit. "I'm going for film!" Yeah, he sure did. ■



Lou Perryman (l) and Sonny Carl Davis in *The Whole Shootin' Match*

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Cracking the Nut

BY BELINDA ACOSTA



Viewers can vote on their favorite *Nutcracker* adaptation – including this one, staring future-*Party Monster* Macaulay Culkin – at OvationTV.com.

I forgot what it was like to be around people on the holidays. After several years of happily going solo, taking in both Thanksgiving and Christmas as a personal retreat, I had forgotten about the finer points of stuffing chauvinism (cornbread vs. sage, whether to call it "stuffing" or "dressing"). I forgot about how snooty otherwise merry folk can be about cranberry sauce and the reaction to those who admit to loving the canned, jellified version. And don't get me started on vegetables. Some people sneer at the mere suggestion of adding something green to the table. Others prefer their vegetables canned and drowned in whatever processed goop they can find, topping it off with something that can only be described as "crunchy." Fortunately, the group I found myself among not only had greens on the table, but two different kinds – spicy and mild. And there was not a pop-and-serve dinner roll in sight. Just as well. There were at least three kinds of bread stuffings on the table I found myself at.

Yes, this is the season not only for food, friends, and good cheer but for holiday traditions like *A Christmas Carol* and, as Ovation TV reminds us, ***The Nutcracker***. While I have had worse Thanksgiving meals (the year of the canned turkey is a stand out) and been in my share of abysmal holiday productions, I have never been in a performance of *The Nutcracker*. Fortunately, Ovation TV has sifted out the chaff to offer up four versions of *The Nutcracker* that viewers can watch throughout the month and then vote on the best. Not to worry if you miss any of them. A marathon of the said *Nutcracker*s will air on Christmas Day.

Performances begin with *Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!* (2003) Dec. 2 at 7pm. The Bolshoi Ballet production (1989) airs on Dec. 3. *The Hard Nut* (1991) airs Dec. 4, and the 1993 theatrical film *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*, staged by Peter Martins (with **Macaulay Culkin** as the Nutcracker), airs Dec. 5. The various *Nutcracker*s repeat Dec. 11-14 and again Dec. 16-19. Check local listings for air times. (I would have liked the jazz adaptation of *The Nutcracker* by **Duke Ellington** included. It evidently aired on Ovation in October, but like holiday wishes, they don't all come true.)

Viewers can vote for their favorite version of *The Nutcracker* through Dec. 19 at **www.ovationtv.com**.

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

An excerpt from local filmmaker **C.C. Stinson**'s documentary, *Light, Bright, Damn Near White*, airs on *Docubloggers* on KLRU at 7:30pm, Thursday, Nov. 29. The doc looks at "colorism," a form of interracial discrimination based on skin tone.

A special two-hour "holiday" version of ***The Closer*** airs Dec. 3 at 7pm. Brenda (**Kyra Sedgwick**) and her man travel to Atlanta to retrieve a suspect and spend Christmas with her parents. Think: winter wonderland on crack. A new season of ***Saving Grace*** (starring **Holly Hunter**) follows at 9pm, both on TNT.

Host **James Lipton** chats it up with **John Cusack** on ***Inside the Actor's Studio***, Dec. 3 at 7pm on Bravo.

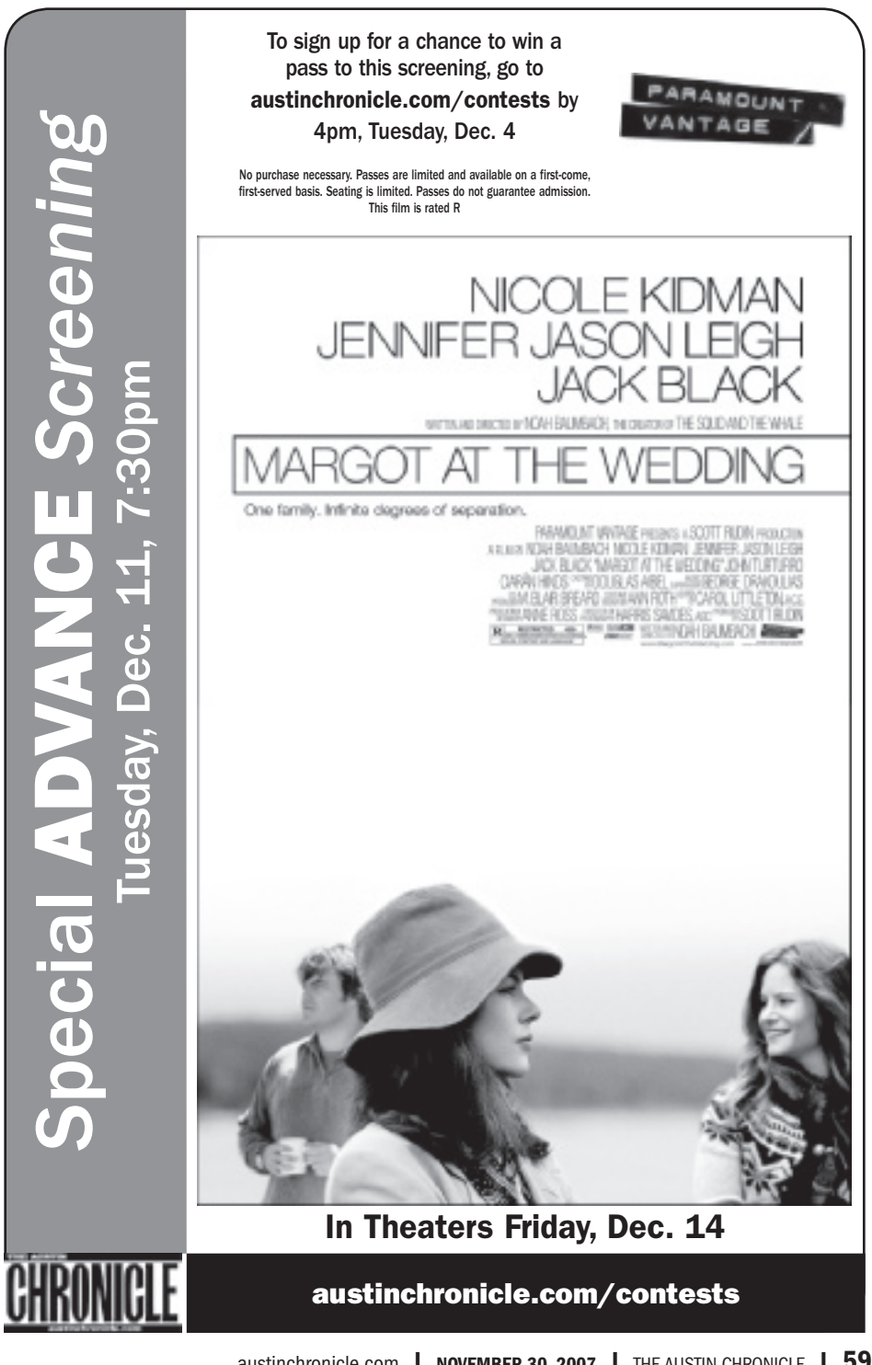
Tyler Perry's House of Payne returns for a second season Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 8pm on TBS.

Dave Attell's (*Insomniac With Dave Attell*) latest, *Dave Attell: Captain Miserable*, premieres Dec. 8 at 9pm on HBO. Check local listings for additional airdates.

Not to be missed: While ***Pu-239*** is not particularly cheery, it is superb. Based on the short story by Ken Kalfus, the film is named for the weapons-grade plutonium that draws two disparate (and desperate) men together, united by their shared desire to support their families in the "new Russia." Making his directorial debut, Scott Z. Burns has assembled a spectacular cast – Paddy Considine (*The Bourne Ultimatum*, *In America*) and Radha Mitchell (*High Art*, *Melinda and Melinda*). *Pu-239* airs tomorrow night (Friday, Dec. 7) at 6pm on HBO with additional screenings though Dec. 31. Check local listings.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at **tveye@austinchronicle.com**.





music

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OFF THE RECORD

music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL



TODD V. WOLFSON

SWEPT AWAY

Jon Dee Graham (pictured) is the subject of a new documentary film, *Swept Away*, scheduled for release next spring by **Treadmill Productions**. Director **Mark Finkelpearl**, who discovered Graham's work through his appearance on **Willie Nelson**'s live 2005 benefit DVD, *Songs for Tsunami Relief: Austin to South Asia*, and who has worked with the **Discovery Channel** and **National Geographic Television**, followed the local guitarist over the course of nine months. Footage from shows in Washington, D.C.; New York City; and around Austin made the cut both visually and sonically; a supplementary live album gets the CD-release treatment this Friday at the **Continental Club**. "Just like when you read between the lines, there's a lot of stuff that's not even talked still there," says Graham. "There's a feeling in parts of the film, a darkness in the subtext, that reveals a lot about my nature that I didn't particularly mean to come out." The experience has proven beneficial for Graham, influencing his writing approach for his next album, *50 Angry Men*, due next year. "The thing that leapt out at me was how uncomfortably intimate the acoustic sets are," Graham says. "I understand the attraction of that now, and I want to explore that in the studio. I've got more than enough songs. I just don't know if they're the right songs. I'm still flailing around looking for the other half of the album."

FOR THE SAKE OF THE SONG



JOHN ANDERSON

"This is used for spirit-possession first and foremost," says Austin musicologist **Joel Laviolette**, left, of the **mbira**, a traditional instrument of staggered metal keys fixed to a wooden board. "It creates circular, polymelodic rhythms used to communicate with ancestral spirits through dancing. It's beautiful and mesmerizing." Laviolette is similarly enchanted with the instrument's capabilities. He's repeatedly traveled to Zimbabwe to study under mbira master **Newton Gwara** and has extensively chronicled the artists from the region through field recordings, conducted with a battery-powered, digital audiotape machine and a series of microphones, released on his nonprofit label, **Mhumhi Records**. Each of the label's 11 albums from the region is on par with **Smithsonian Folkways Recordings**, all featuring beautiful packaging as well as line-by-line translation of the lyrics. Earlier this year, Laviolette added two local albums to the catalog: his own mesmerizing debut, *Ndiro YeMidzimu*, and a live EP from **Rattletree Marimba**, an Austin-based sixpiece that interprets traditional mbira music on a series of marimbas (essentially large wooden xylophones) that Laviolette constructed. The group performs at **Ruta Maya** on Saturday as part of the **Pungwe: An African Dance Party**, which benefits **Brother Brother Sister Sister**, a nonprofit providing care to AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe, among other notable organizations. The *Chronicle* would like to take this opportunity to wish a swift recovery to Ruta Maya booker and promoter **Jennifer Marchand**, who was struck by a car before the club's annual Halloween Ball.





PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

For its grand reopening Monday night, the **Austin Music Hall** was *still* a hard-hat-required construction site, or at least that appeared to be the case since the exterior walls of the second story weren't yet complete and **Direct Events** owner **Tim O'Connor** and his staff donned commemorative helmets for the occasion. The view and sound from the mezzanine level was impeccable, particularly for opener **Kacy Crowley** and **Del Castillo**, who did their best to heat up the otherwise freezing building, but there was clearly still more work to be done, from the hanging of drywall to the installment of glass windows for the will-call booth. "We're not trying to hide the fact that this is a work in progress," acknowledged O'Connor, who could not be bargained down from his 95% complete estimation. "It was time to say that no matter what, we're going to be open. We're very close to where we want to be." Construction resumed Tuesday morning at 7am and is scheduled for completion by ***The Bobby Bones Show* Anniversary Bash**, featuring **Sean Kingston** and **Lifehouse**, Saturday, Dec. 8.





Kacy Crowley

GUERRILLA RADIO

Lyle Lovett testified before the **U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee** last Tuesday on behalf of the **MusicFirst Coalition**, arguing the need for broadcast radio to pay a royalty to performers, in addition to those currently allotted to songwriters (Internet, cable, and satellite radio already compensate artists for airplay). The legislation would set the precedent necessary for artists to collect similar fees from foreign radio stations, as well. "It's a matter of fairness and survival," says ***Austin City Limits*** producer **Terry Lickona**, who lobbied on **Capitol Hill** for the legislation earlier this year on behalf of the **Recording Academy**.

"With downturns in album sales and the rise of illegal downloading, this issue is becoming increasingly important for traditional artists." **Scott Gillmore**, vice president and market manager for **Emmis Austin Radio**, however, believes that broadcast radio, a $20 billion industry, which has seen no overall revenue growth in the past seven years, shouldn't be forced to bear the record industry's burden for its recent financial shortcomings. "For the past 70 years, there's been a very mutually beneficial relationship between the artists and the stations," he says. "This legislation would turn local radio upside down." Stay tuned.

TRANSLATE SLOWLY

Stars of Austin's New Sincerity movement in the 1980s, the **Reivers**, who released two albums for **Capitol Records** (see "Pop Beloved," April 26, 2002), are rehearsing for a one-time-only reunion show in the near future. "**Cindy** [**Toth**] said she wanted to do it," relays singer/guitarist **John Croslin**. "Everybody is getting into it for the rehearsals. It's been fun, and it sounds good." Along with engineering and mixing work for bands like **Spoon**, **Guided by Voices**, and **Pavement**, Croslin has kept busy working on a solo album for the past two years. "I don't know if it's all that different, honestly," he says. "It comes from the same place." Does that mean it could translate into future recordings from the Reivers?



TODD V. WOLFSON

The Reivers, 1991

"There are no plans to at this point," Croslin contends. "We're all in different places."

RANDOM PLAY

Ian MacKaye would approve of the **Broken Neck**. The new DIY venue, 4701-B Red Bluff, is hosting regular punk shows on the Eastside, helping fill the gap of the sorely missed **Snake Eyes Vinyl** record store, which is moving to a new, undecided location. **Super Secret Records**' **Teeners** throwdown Friday, along with the **Pepperonis**, the **Capitalist Kids**, **Sex Advice**, and **Stymie**.

Local alternative-rock group **Sounds Under Radio**, previously heard on the *Spider-Man 3* soundtrack, inked a deal with **Epic Records**. The quartet's major label debut, *Cinematica*, lands on Best Buy shelves Feb. 19.

Obatallah, the longstanding "maestro of ceremonies" for the **Waxploitation!**'s **Soul Happenings**, died Saturday morning due to complications arising from diabetes. He was 68. Funeral arrangements are pending at **Phillips Upshaw & Richard Funeral Home**.





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Dreamsville

Gloria Stavers, '16 Magazine,' and the roots of rock journalism



Gloria Stavers as "GeeGee," Aug. 1961

BY MARGARET MOSER

With absolutely no fanfare, fawning memoir, VH1 special, or even *People* magazine blurb, the most important milestone in rock journalism turned 50 this year. Not *Rolling Stone*, which turned 40, but *16 Magazine*. "The magazine for smart girls," boasted the spine of its May 1957 debut. Elvis Presley waved from the cover.

16 Magazine was founded in 1956 by French native Jacques Chambrun, literary agent to Grace Metalious, whose scandalous book *Peyton Place* made him wealthy. Chambrun recognized a youth market in publishing, so he bought a failing magazine and revived it with partners Desmond Hall and George Waller. The trio called their company The Girlfriend-The Boyfriend Corp. and settled in at 745 Fifth Ave. in New York City.

The periodical's early stories were written by Chambrun and company under female pseudonyms, primarily "Georgia Winters," a feminization of Waller's first name and Hall's middle name. Winters remained the name on the publisher's masthead until 1964, when "she" was kicked downstairs by Gloria Stavers.

"Gloria Stavers and *16 Magazine* basically invented rock and pop-culture journalism as we know it today," posited someone who should know, music critic emeritus Dave Marsh, in his intro to 1997's *Who's Your Fave Rave?*, the 40th anniversary book written by former *16* editors Randi Reisfeld and Danny Fields. What Marsh doesn't say is that Stavers basically also invented the female rock and pop-culture journalist.

As editor of *16* for nearly 20 years, Stavers shaped more musical careers than any other woman of her day. As a writer of popular culture, she was unparalleled. Once Stavers left *16 Magazine* in 1975, reading and writing about rock & roll changed forever.

Hollywood and Vinyl

16 Magazine's first issue resembles one of those 1950s Hollywood scandal sheets minus the dirt. Plenty of Elvis coverage, snaps of Hollywood stars like Natalie Wood and Debra Paget, a quiz asking "Are Your Parents Delinquent?" and a feature on the Million Dollar Quartet. How honed in was *16* on its audience in its first issue? Those iconic photos of Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash at a piano in Sun Studios were *16*'s exclusively.

16 Magazine inflated dreams, young girls' dreams to be precise, and no one paid more attention to that than Gloria Stavers, a North Carolina native who'd bolted from a nowhere marriage in Ithaca, N.Y., but found modeling in Manhattan an unstable profession. Fashion did, however, provide her the opportunity to learn about glamour photography, a skill that paid off when Chambrun gave her stewardship of the magazine. By the end of 1958, she reigned as editor-in-chief of the bimonthly magazine with a readership of 250,000, all without the benefit of a journalism degree or college.

Using a combination of her own observations and the heartfelt letters that poured in to the office, Stavers shaped the magazine's content by developing stars, and not just pre-existing ones like Elvis and Ricky Nelson. New television seasons in the late 1950s and early 1960s provided new crops of stars annually – 77 *Sunset Strip*'s Edd "Kookie" Byrnes, *The Rifleman*'s Johnny Crawford, and *Dr. Kildare*'s Richard Chamberlain traded on popularity achieved through cooperation with *16*.

"The producers of the TV shows were Gloria's friends," Danny Fields points out. "It was like a conspiracy to build sellable, interchangeable pieces of shit, and she was part of it. At the same time, she knew the world was changing, and she was having an affair with Lenny Bruce. What's odder than that?"

Author of a book on his friend Linda McCartney, a record executive for Elektra Records who was instrumental in the signing of both the Stooges and MC5, not to mention longtime manager of the Ramones and firsthand witness to the birth of punk, Danny Fields is rock royalty of the highest order. His tenure as editor of *Datebook* initially made him Stavers' rival, but by the punk decade, he'd joined her and Reisfeld at *16*.

By the early 1960s, the *16* formula was set. The combination of TV, film, and pop stars supplied a never-ending array of faces and talents to choose from. Stavers gave the magazine street cred with a gossip column that matched those of the New York dailies and L.A. trades for scoops and insider info. "GeeGee's Gossip" (Gloria and Georgia?) featured a new photo of Stavers every month; the April 1963 issue identifies the editor as Georgia Winters, presenting Ray Charles with *16*'s first Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Readership meant everything to Stavers, and she surveyed hers endlessly. Full-page ballots and two-page spreads polled *16* readers for their picks of rising stars. Chambrun hired elderly women to tally the fan mail, which Stavers read obsessively. She had her finger on all pulses. That's when 1964's cultural shock wave upended the world.

The most important milestone in rock journalism turned 50 this year.

Something New

May 1964 is the ground zero issue for *16 Magazine*. It's the first issue that the Beatles' name appears on the cover.

Also on the cover are James Franciscus of *Mr. Novak*, Patty Duke, Elvis, Bobby Rydell, and 13-year-old Kurt Russell! None of the mop-tops are pictured, but the following month, all four are on the cover, where one or the other of them will stay for the next several years. By *16*'s fall issues, the Fab Four and anything with a British accent adorned the magazine's cartoonish covers.

"Gloria knew the big waterwheel in the sky had changed," agrees Danny Fields. "That the North Pole became the South Pole, and the South Pole became the North Pole. It was unmistakable, and in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, she saw that the Beatles, Herman's Hermits, the Dave Clark Five were the new thing.

"She was conscious of Bob Dylan, too."

Stavers' intuitive perception of this sea change occurred almost immediately. Not just because she included posters of Dylan and profiled Chris Hillman of the Byrds while also running obituaries of Lenny Bruce and Robert Kennedy but because she attached her name to the personality already associated with *16*. The February 1964 issue finds reader letters addressed "Dear Miss Winters," but by May 1964 – the first issue with the Beatles – letters were now addressed "Dear Miss Stavers." One contest notes that "Georgia Stavers" chose the winner.

Suddenly Stavers' name sat in larger font than the titular Georgia Winters, now downsized to "consulting editor." Stavers wore her editor-in-chief title at "America's most imitated magazine" like a crown. She kept on for the next 11 years.

16's embrace of the British Invasion bands led directly to the overthrow of America's Brylcreem set. From the May 1964 issues on,

continued on p.64





Bryl building and dismantling: *16*'s debut (l) and seven years later, the Beatles'

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As editor of *16* for nearly 20 years, Gloria Stavers shaped more musical careers than any other woman of her day. As a writer of popular culture, she was unparalleled.





The clean-cut 1950s look rapidly vanished from the cover as exotically shaggy heads of increasingly long hair took hold. The traditional female stars suffered their last gasps in 1964, too, rapidly eclipsed by the dolly birds on the arms of the Beatles and other Brit rockers.

These imported Carnaby Street darlings sported a vastly new look from the American teen queens. *London Look* hair hung straight, silky, worn with bangs and a teased puff of hair atop the head. Lips were slicked in pale, paler, palest of the innocent pinks. Short skirts and simply designed frocks from designers like Mary Quant boasted a revolutionary girlishness that contrasted to the sophisticated Hollywood look. The October 1964 issue cries, "Got a Problem? Let Connie Francis Help You With It!" Already, Connie's dark lips and heavy make-up look hopelessly outdated.

The October 1964 cover also depicts TV star Paul Petersen plugging his ears against the Fab Four. Inside are photos from Shelley Fabares' wedding to "Only Sixteen" author and future Monterey Pop impresario Lou Adler, with Petersen and Annette Funicello in attendance. Content focuses on which of the Dave Clark Five were married (Rick and Lenny!) and what the Beatle girlfriends – Jane Asher, Pattie Boyd, Maureen Cox – were really like (nice).

Subsequent features such as "At Home With the Rolling Stones" offered an intimacy rarely seen in newsstand interviews of the time and was doubtless arranged to give Brian Jones enough time to put away the hookah and hashish before welcoming 13-year-old girls to his bachelor lair. How much more subversive could *16* get?

'Dear Concerned Elton Fan ...'

From the mid-1960s on, Stavers sat at the top of her game, the most powerful editor of a music publication selling more than a million copies monthly, the highest-profile female music journalist who by all accounts slept with select subjects in the magazine like Jim Morrison, Mitch Ryder, and even Mickey Mantle.

When the Monkees came along, she midwifed their birth as teen idols, just as she would David Cassidy and Donny Osmond the following decade. Stavers deftly translated the oddball into idols for her readers – Leonard Nimoy as *Star Trek*'s Mr. Spock, Jonathan Frid as *Dark Shadows*' vampire, Alice Cooper – though the 1970s presented its own problem when the hugely popular Elton John flew out of the closet.

"Letters started coming in," remembers Danny Fields. "'My brother read in *Rolling Stone* that Elton John confessed to being a bisexual. Please say it isn't so because you're

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16 Magazine, and we know you'll tell us the truth about this horrible thing they're making up because they're jealous of him because he's so cute and cuddly.'

"So many letters came in on Elton that they had to clear out an extra office to make room for the mail. I made up a generic letter like that: 'My brother says … say it isn't so' and answered it in *16*. 'Dear Concerned Elton Fan, it looks as if Elton did say this in *Rolling Stone*, here's the quote. He did say, "I am a bisexual."' "And I said, 'Well, if we love Elton for his adorableness and cute songs and wonderful personality and kindness to his fans, rally around him when things get difficult, because that's when he needs his fans the most.'

"It was making me puke to say that, because I didn't go to *16* to write about a fat little bald queen. But I said, 'You must support him. Just because a person is bisexual is no reason to not love him for his wonderful music.'"

"Gloria was a courtesan," states Fields flatly.

The magazine's defense of Elton John was radical, but according to Fields, "It made no difference. Elton John stopped getting mail. Completely. Went from Number 1 mail getter to none." If only by coincidence, that's when *16*'s problems began. The teen market looked less predictable than ever, and sales had already dropped to 500,000 monthly.

"Elton slipped. The boss died. His elderly friend inherited the magazine, then he died, then it went to the old friend's daughter, and she was a horror. Gloria was gone; she'd left in a final fight with Mr. Chambrun. The magazine was sold and sold and sold to a bunch of conglomerates, and at each one, *16* become less important. There was nothing that made it special to those companies. It was a legacy that slipped through their fingers."

G-L-O-R-I-A

Gloria Stavers left behind a Pandora's box of secrets when she died of lung cancer in 1983. Chief among them was her meteoric ascendancy to editor of *16 Magazine*.

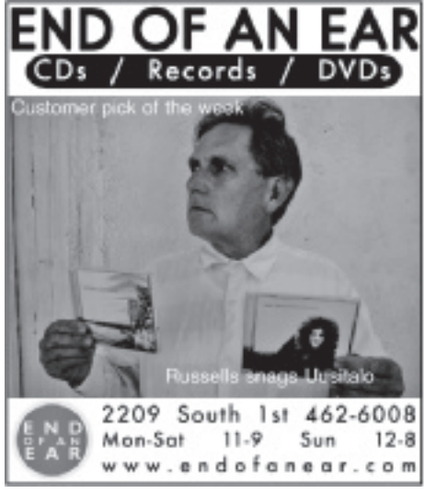
"Gloria was a courtesan," states Fields flatly. "The euphemism for it is runway model. There's no other word for it, and 'runway model' means courtesan. She lived that life, where you'd get $500 to go to the ladies room. Chambrun gave her the magazine. And she's overlooked by history, because what she did is considered trivial and juvenile.

"But it wasn't. It was important."

Then why did Gloria Stavers leave *16 Magazine* in 1975 after devoting so much of her life to it?

"What does it matter?" shrugs Danny Fields. "When you divorced your husband, did you remember the last fight? It was over the roles the two of them played – circulation was dropping, who they were to each other, what he was entitled to complain about, blah blah blah. Didn't matter. She came down one day after meeting with him and said to me and Randi, 'I'm outta here. Take over. Jacques is happy with the arrangement. I'm gone.'

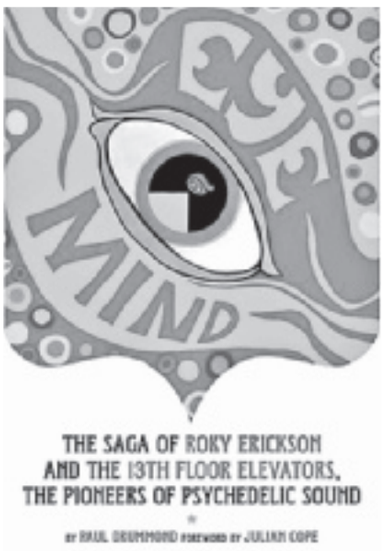
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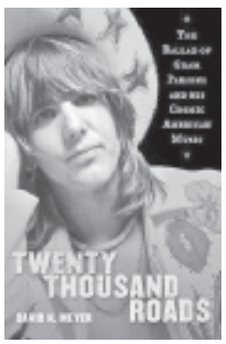
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by Paul Drummond
Process Media, 424 pp., $22.95

Until recently, the music and the history of Roky Erickson and the 13th Floor Elevators existed in the same hazy dimension. The guitars were distorted; the facts even more so. Whereas Keven McAlester's emotionally unsettling 2005 documentary, *You're Gonna Miss Me*, focused primarily on Erickson's redemptive journey toward independence as a means to understand his troubled past, British author Paul Drummond takes the opposite approach. Nine years in the making, *Eye Mind* quickly dispatches the last two decades of Erickson's enigmatic career and loses itself in the origins of Elevators, dating back to the group's early years in Austin's Ghetto with Janis Joplin and their residencies at the Jade Room and New Orleans Club. Drummond chronicles the band's near-constant experimentation with drugs (and subsequent problems with the law), their trips in and to San Francisco, and the esoteric spirituality of jug-blower Tommy Hall. Most intriguing are the firsthand (and often conflicting) accounts provided by the band members and the likes of late Avalon Ballroom promoter Chet Helms and Casey Monahan of the Texas Music Office. The author's unfamiliarity with Austin's musical history prevents him from exploring the connection between the Elevators and contemporary artists like Doug Sahm (who produced Erickson's debut single), Townes Van Zandt, Daniel Johnston, and the Butthole Surfers. Despite Drummond's best efforts, some of the facts remain fuzzy, especially the smaller details, like where the Sex Pistols played in Texas, while the aura and mystique of the group's psychedelic sounds, thankfully, remain in a universe of their own. *– Austin Powell*

TWENTY THOUSAND ROADS: THE BALLAD OF GRAM PARSONS AND HIS COSMIC AMERICAN MUSIC

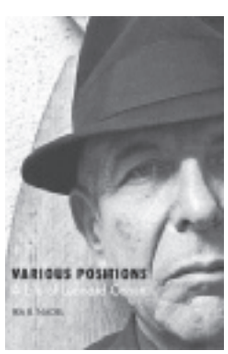
by David N. Meyer
Villard, 559 pp., $29.95



The paradoxical elements of Gram Parsons' genius are well-ingrained in music lore: his charisma and intense introspection, his ambition and restless self-destruction, his beauty and pain. In new biography *Twenty Thousand Roads*, author David N. Meyer maintains a fascination and frustration with those competing impulses in the country-rock progenitor yet accounts for the man above the myth. Meyer's content to leave legendary episodes like Parsons in Villa Nellcôte in France with the Rolling Stones to the annals of others' extravagant rock histories, focusing instead on the fraying tension the scene precipitated between the songwriter and future wife Gretchen Burrell. The biography provides no grand revelations, but Meyer's exhaustive research, exquisite narrative prose, and singular focus on Parsons – rather than the constant drama that surrounded him – are refreshing and continually insightful. Meyer's greatest contribution lies in the candid and thorough examination of Parsons' upbringing and sordid, Tennessee Williams-esque family history of addiction, suicide, and squandered wealth. In an uncharacteristically open moment in 1965, Parsons writes to his younger sister, Avis, "The best thing we can do is learn from the past and live our lives the right way, so in time, when we can do something to change things, we will be real people." Meyer ultimately achieves what even Parsons could not: He discovers the person behind the myth enshrouded in Nudie suits, L.A. glamour, and drug excess. What's left is the true legacy of Parsons' contradictions, an immensely gifted artist whose sincerity, lost in a surreal life, emerged instead in song. *– Doug Freeman*

VARIOUS POSITIONS: A LIFE OF LEONARD COHEN

by Ira B. Nadel
University of Texas Press, 336 pp., $24.95



Writing about a poet isn't an enviable task, but Leonard Cohen's life has been surreal enough that it's made Ira B. Nadel's job a lot easier. *Various Positions* is Cohen's "tolerated" biography, and this new edition of the original 1996 book tacks on an update of the past 10 years. Nadel paints the poet/musician/Zen Buddhist in tones of genius and torturer, making him the consummate poet. The death of Cohen's father is a major event for the upper-class family of Montreal Jews and, we get a sense, a catalyst for the budding poet's career. Nadel catalogs all the small details, too: In his college years on the debate team, Cohen is defeated by two convicts from Boston, solidifying the tragic comedy of his early career. The author veers between scholarly and spiritual interpretations of Cohen's life, letting the seedier rock-star bits seep out as well. The singer's struggles with substances and women are documented but not sensationalized; in a particular slump during the 1970s, Cohen remarks: "I'm too old to commit suicide. It would be unbecoming." We learn a little about the man's semichermed life, but in the end, you know Cohen's still got a few more stories to tell. *– Audra Schroeder*

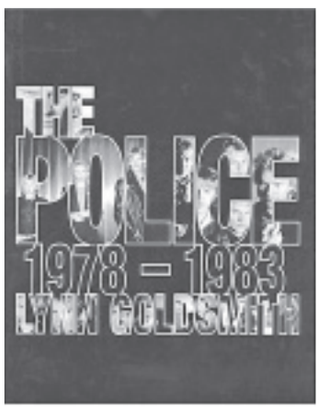
ROCK & ROLL HEAVEN

by Robert Dimery and Bruno MacDonald
Barron's Educational Series, 256 pp., $24.99



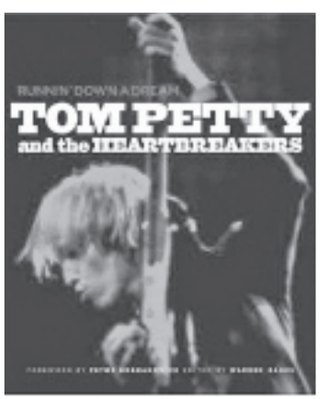
THE POLICE: 1978-1983

by Lynn Goldsmith
Little, Brown & Co., 192 pp., $29.99



RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM: TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS

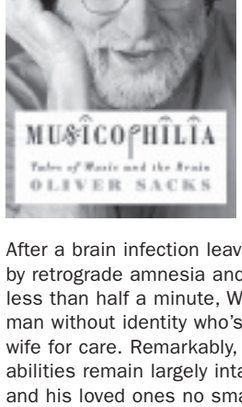
by Peter Bogdanovich, edited by Warren Zanes
Chronicle Books, 237 pp., $39.95



Everyone knows the 27 Club – Jimi, Janis, Jim, Brian, and Kurt – but in a lifestyle notorious for excess, Robert Dimery and Bruno MacDonald's list of 120 fatalities takes the glamour out of glam. From spreads of Mississippi blues legend Robert Johnson (poisoning) to the Godfather of Soul (heart failure), *Rock & Roll Heaven* plays historian, photographer, and gossip hound, and it's as addictive as Tim Buckley's – er – Keith Moon's – um – Tommy Bolin's – man – Hillel Slovak's vice. As sad and morbid as the plane crashes and cancers are, this is a trivia lover's must-have, a fascinating collection of music history. Walking her own path of era-defining rock, famed photographer Lynn Goldsmith compiled five years of Police portraits and live shots for her piece of the reunion. *The Police: 1978-1983* is gorgeous. Chock-full of personality from the trio that almost never was, as well as a poolside Speedo sequence that might win over a whole new generation of Roxannes, the matte hardcover is interspersed with quotes from Sting, Stewart Copeland, and Andy Summers that paint more than a candlelit picture of the band. Goldsmith also makes an appearance in *Runnin' Down a Dream*, the companion coffeetable book to Peter Bogdanovich's four-hour documentary on the legend that is Tom Petty. Matching interviews Bogdanovich conducted with the Heartbreakers to rare photos, paraphernalia, and stories from Earl, *Dream* is the story of a band from Gainesville, Fla., that defined American rock & roll. It's a complete experience flipping through these glossy pages that run from generation to generation, from Mudcrutch to the Traveling Wilburys, helped along the way by Petty's eldest, Adria, and friends like Johnny Depp. As Petty says: "I mean, you won't see me taking all of this down to the pawnshop. I plan on keeping it." *– Darcie Stevens*

MUSICOPHILIA: TALES OF MUSIC AND THE BRAIN

by Oliver Sacks
Knopf, 400 pp., $26



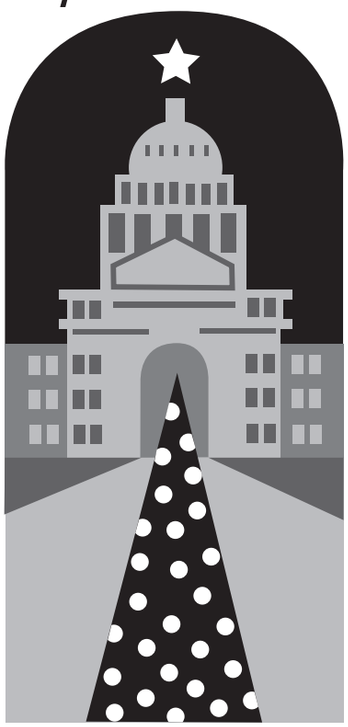
After reading the latest popular brain-science narrative from neurologist Oliver Sacks, you'll feel grateful for having the ability to "get" music. The author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* illustrates the many areas of the mind required to perform, listen to, and emotionally respond to music by introducing people whose brains function differently. Abnormalities with any one of these areas can have far-reaching consequences. A doctor struck by lightning has a sudden emergence of musical talent, while a composer involved in a car accident loses her ability to discern harmony. The story of English musician Clive Wearing is both enthralling and heartbreaking. After a brain infection leaves him debilitated by retrograde amnesia and a memory span of less than half a minute, Wearing becomes a man without identity who's dependent on his wife for care. Remarkably, though, his musical abilities remain largely intact, offering Wearing and his loved ones no small degree of solace amid the suffering. Sacks also discusses how music is sometimes the last refuge of responsiveness for persons suffering from degenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Although overlong in spots, Sacks' neophyte-friendly prose describing the sometimes-miraculous, sometimes-terrifying effect of music on the human brain is both fascinating and accessible. *– Greg Beets*

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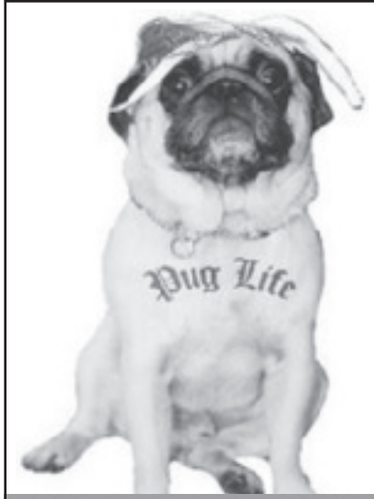
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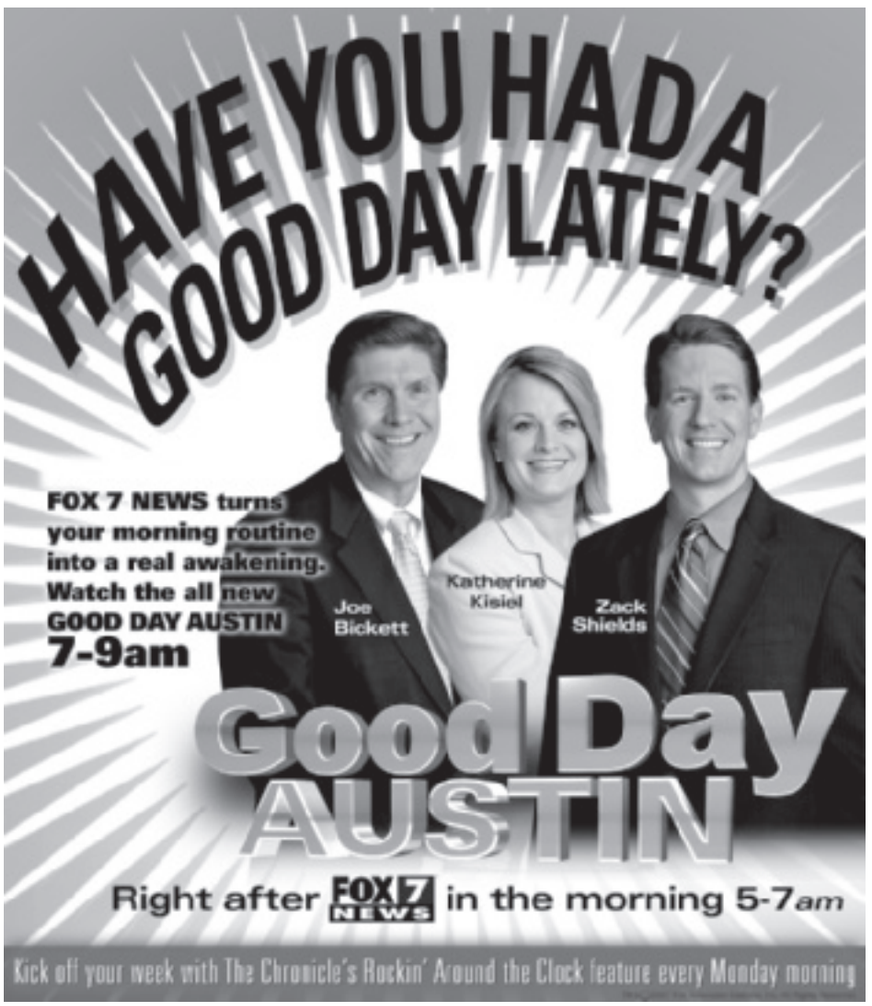
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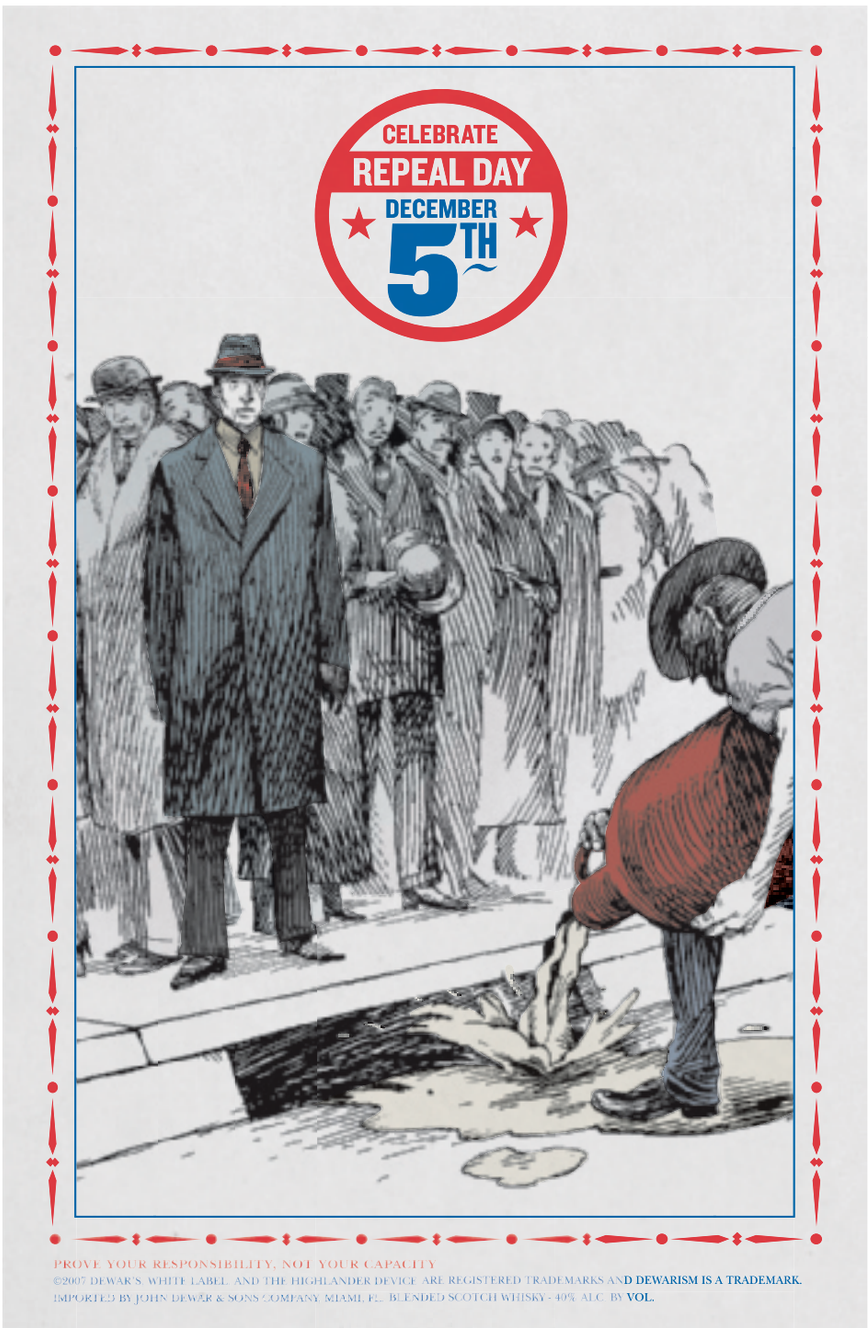
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THE HEROIN DIARIES: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A SHATTERED ROCK STAR

by Nikki Sixx with Ian Gittins
MTV Pocket Books/Simon & Schuster, 413 pp., $32.50

If Mötley Crüe's 2001 epic, *The Dirt*, equals the *Moby-Dick* of debauched music autobiographies, Nikki Sixx's *Heroin Diaries* cooks it up Persian style into a cotton ball ready for the shooting gallery. "If one person reads this book and doesn't have to go down the same road as me, it was worth sharing my personal hell with them," writes the Crüe bassist and group's principal songwriter. Sobriety speak for "don't try this inside your mansion's walk-in closet," *Heroin*'s raison d'être reeks disingenuous for the simple fact that most rock & roll drug-casualty morality plays – especially as related by the offending millionaire survivor – rarely conceal the boasted conceit at their center: I lived to tell all. Another whale of a tale it is, too. Unfortunately for impressionable addicts to be, one rock star's monumental license with sex, drugs, and punky metallic Kiss-rock makes for another fan's literary high. The story arc may be rock stock – disaffected youth channels familial wounds into platinum grooves – but Sixx's supremely self-aware narcissism bleeds genuine likability even when he's bending his A&R mensch's date over a bench backstage as she protests being on her period. The moral of the story: Sixx shooting buddy and Ratt guitarist Robbin Crosby going from Ferrari to penniless AIDS grave. *– Raoul Hernandez*

BEING PREZ: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF LESTER YOUNG

by Dave Gelly
Oxford University Press, 171 pp., $23.95



He was known as Prez for good reason. As the president of all the saxophonists, Lester Young turned the jazz world on its ear when he blew out of Kansas City with the Count Basie Orchestra in 1936. His unique rhythmic virtuosity, cool and nimble sound, and bottomless wellspring of lyrical creativity transformed the evolution of saxophone-playing forever. Unfortunately, the remarkable sensitivity and gentleness that characterized his music left him ill-prepared to deal with the harshness of life, and by 1959, at the age of 49, his brilliant flame burned out. In this slim volume, British jazz writer Dave Gelly traces Young's career, beginning with his family's traveling band, through his time in Kansas City and New York with Basie, plus his years of checkered success as a solo artist revered by the jazz world and his ultimate decline. Gelly's at his best when examining Young's many superb recordings, although he gets a bit technical at times. This fan would have liked more on Young's storied musical romance with Billie Holiday. After all, it was she who dubbed him Prez and he who nicknamed her Lady Day. Nevertheless, *Being Prez* remains a thoughtful catalyst for dusting off Lester Young's magic. *– Jay Trachtenberg*

LOVE IS A MIX TAPE: LIFE AND LOSS, ONE SONG AT A TIME

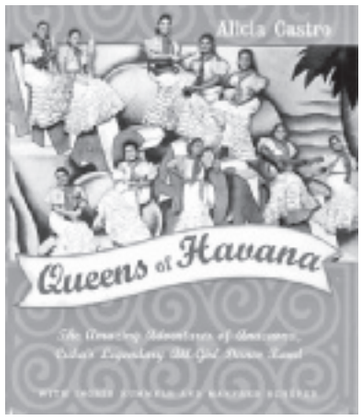
by Rob Sheffield
Crown, 224 pp., $22.95



Much has and will be written about the transcendent power of music, both personal and universal. *Love Is a Mix Tape*, thankfully, isn't such a book. Its heart lies much deeper, its poignancy grounded in a much more sincere reality. Less a memoir than a tribute and commemoration, *Mix Tape* traces the relationship between current *Rolling Stone* Contributing Editor Rob Sheffield and his wife, Renee, their marriage cut tragically short by her death in 1997 at age 31. Using mixtapes the two spackled with 1990s pop and alternative culture, Sheffield recalls their life together in the college town of Charlottesville, Va., with a willful nostalgia, the music serving as foil rather than substance. The beauty of the book emerges in Sheffield's direct writing and appreciation of the music, accessible and rife with a shattering pain as he celebrates Renee's life through his grief at her loss. Avoiding ostentatious critical digressions into the music or the times, Sheffield understands the simple, relatable personal attachment we invest in music and are left clinging to when all else disappears. Honest, heartbreaking, inspiring, and beautiful, *Mix Tape* encapsulates our connection to music and, more importantly, to one another. *– Doug Freeman*

QUEENS OF HAVANA: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF ANACAONA, CUBA'S LEGENDARY ALL-GIRL DANCE BAND

by Alicia Castro, as told to Ingrid Kummels and Manfred Schafer, translated by Steven T. Murray
Grove Press, 393 pp., $24

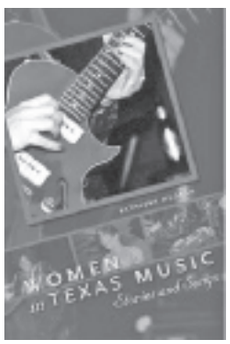


Alicia Castro's a charmer and clearly always has been. *Queens of Havana* is the memoir of this musical pioneer, one of 12 sisters in Cuba's first all-girl dance band, Anacaona. A fun, easy read, the book gives a personal peek into life in Cuba over the past 80 years, predating both Batista's dictatorship and Castro's revolution. Orally dictated, *Queens* feels like sitting at the kitchen table and hearing your grandmother's life story, only Grandma's adventures span the globe and feature such characters as Marlene Dietrich and Benny Goodman, Castro and Batista, and countless others. The photos are generous and a blast, including the menu from one of the first clubs they played; Buddy Rich, who took the drumming sister to get a new kit; and, of course, images of the sisters throughout the decades. While the gigs and tours were many, the recordings of Anacaona are relatively few, leaving less to explore than one would hope. The book isn't a literary heavyweight, but there's plenty to enjoy, so if you have any book-loving fans of the Buena Vista Social Club on your holiday shopping list, *Queens of Havana* is for you.

– Graham Reynolds

WOMEN IN TEXAS MUSIC: STORIES AND SONGS

by Kathleen Hudson
University of Texas Press, 258 pp., $24.95



According to Kathleen Hudson, there are more than 800 women listed in the Texas Music Guide, so to dedicate a book to some of those stories is a noble and necessary project to undertake. Hudson achieves moderate success by presenting the stories of 35 women in Texas music, from the obvious choices (Sara Hickman, Marcia Ball) to the more obscure (Eva Ybarra, Elana James). Hudson states that the impetus of this project is to "turn over the male perspective to discover and reveal the female perspective that the planet so needs at this time," yet the connective tissue of the first five interviews is none other than Lloyd Maines, an interview that kicks off the collection. Why must the book's structural conceit be legitimized by a male presence? To this end, Hudson misses the mark for an ethical, responsible presentation of this collection of oral histories. What's more, the interviews lack depth; it's great that Betty Buckley's cutting horse is called Purple Badger, but a bit more insight into each woman's subjectivity – and a lot less of Hudson's personal narrative of Gestalt psychology and shamanic integration – would have made this a much more provocative and worthwhile read.

– Melanie Haupt

JOHNNY CASH: THE BIOGRAPHY

by Michael Streissguth
Da Capo Press, 334 pp., $15.95 (paper)

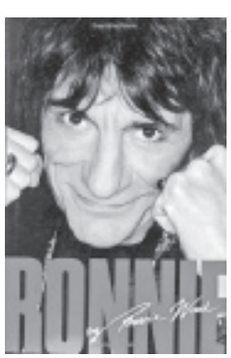


After two autobiographies from the Man in Black, it's difficult to fathom the need for another tome dissecting his life. Nevertheless, Michael Streissguth, best known for his in-depth *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, strives for new insight, additional details, and an overall balance of admiration and criticism in this biography. He succeeds to a degree, but the author's storytelling style is bland and disjointed, turning a fascinating life into a rough slog. Part of Streissguth's problem is chronological. Sections of the book are dedicated to specific time periods, but he jumps around within each one, leading to confusion when he needs to be crystal clear. Perhaps there's a need for an academic recounting of Cash's life but one told in the style of Peter Guralnick's Elvis Presley bios – at an almost daily level. It's not until Rick Rubin arrives in the 1990s that Streissguth's prose shines, precisely because of the time limits the retelling imposes. Cash's interaction with Bob Dylan, the folk scene in Greenwich Village, and the Newport Folk Festival in the 1960s are also detailed admirably. Cash's imposing shadow over the 20th century deserves to be illuminated in a lively and intense fashion that suits his legend, but Streissguth only scratches the surface.

– Jim Caligiuri

RONNIE

by Ronnie Wood
St. Martin's Press, 358 pp., $25.95



Maybe it's the fact that Ronnie Wood didn't become a member of the Rolling Stones until 1976 that kept him from being known as the lovable one. According to his new autobiography, a dodgy affair that leaves quite a few stones unturned, his musical mates – including Rod Stewart, Jeff Beck, and Austin's own Ian McLagan – and romantic partners alike found Wood's come-ons irresistible. Growing up on a modest estate

continued on p.70

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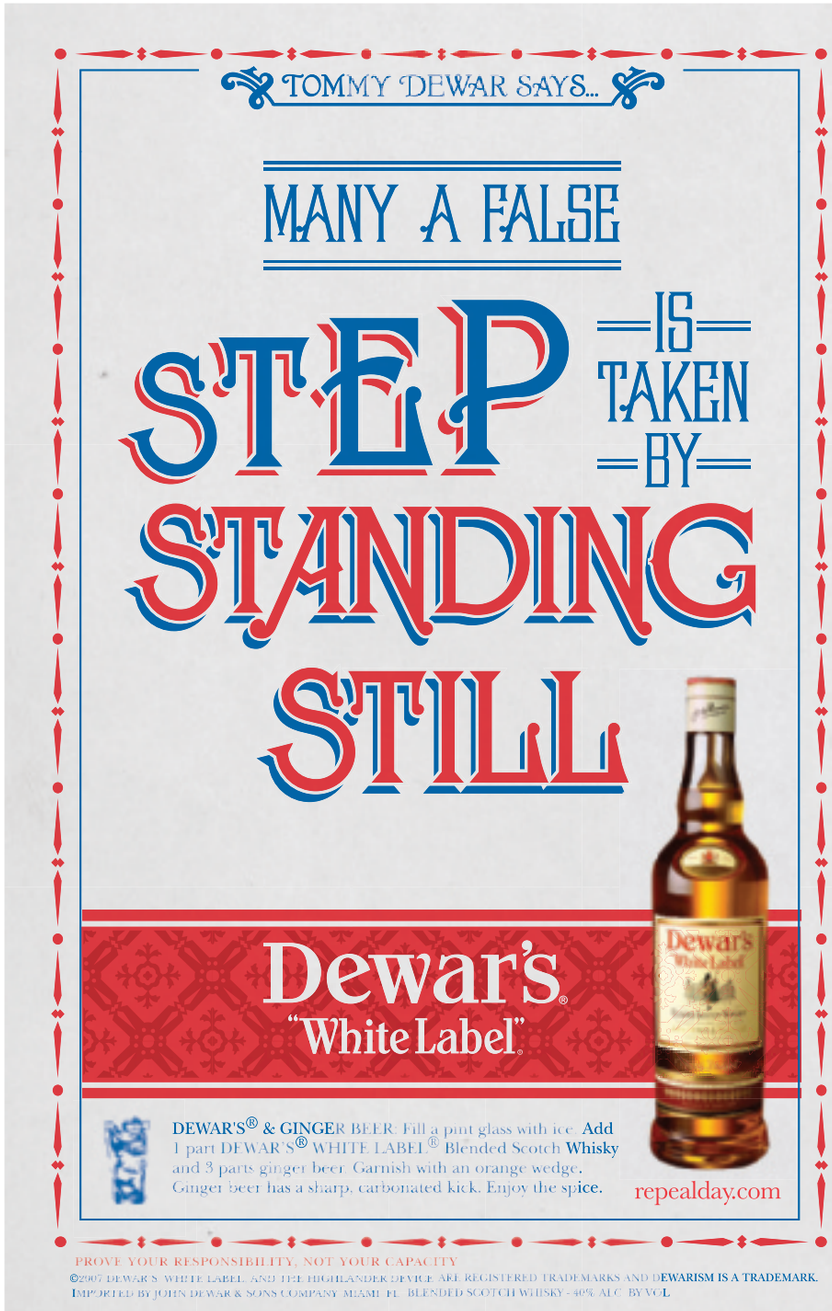
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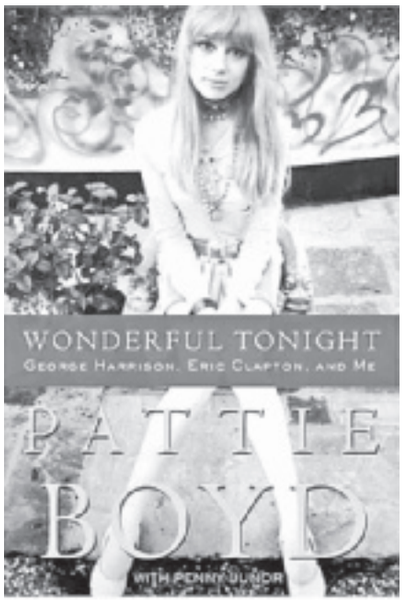


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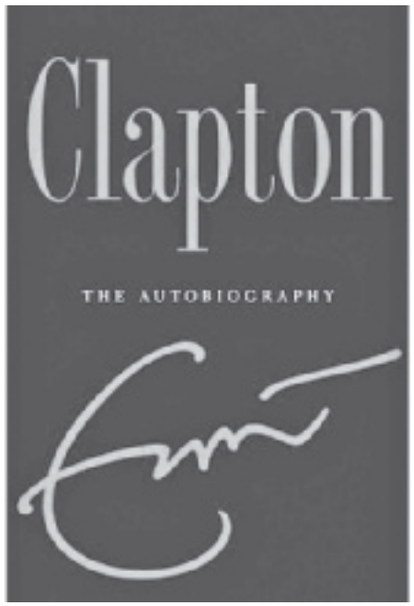




WONDERFUL TONIGHT: GEORGE HARRISON, ERIC CLAPTON, AND ME

by Pattie Boyd with Penny Junor
Harmony Books, 321 pp. $25.95

Noted royals scribe Penny Junor jumped in bed with the ne plus ultra of rock muses, Pattie Boyd Harrison Clapton, for *Wonderful Tonight*, a sweet, sad memoir that rings true. As George Harrison's girlfriend, then wife, Boyd's blondness and English rose complexion was the embodiment of 1960s beauty. She floated through the swinging decade until she came heart to heart with love-struck guitar god Eric Clapton. Along the way, she'd inspired Harrison's wistful "Something" and the ravishing "Layla" by Clapton, but rock & roll songs aren't fairy tales with happily ever after endings. *Wonderful Tonight* layers her early life with enough details to make the casual reader start flipping pages until, oh, say … the Beatles appear. And that's the payoff: how Boyd's path to inner peace led the Beatles to the Yogi, which changed Harrison into a distant, introspective cheat and paved the way for alcoholic, drug-addicted Clapton to win her then spurn her. At the worst, Boyd/Junor use a messy chronology that throws people and places out of context. Once the magical mystery rock star names vanish, Boyd turns the mirror inward, and the book becomes SFF – strictly for fans. By that time, you've read what you want to know. – *Margaret Moser*



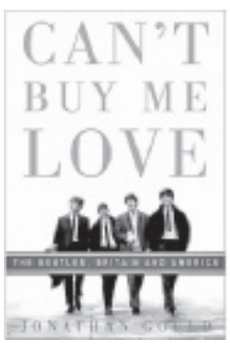
CLAPTON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by Eric Clapton
Broadway Books, 341 pp., $26

Testament to Eric Clapton's *Autobiography* blows woofers on Cream's *Disraeli Gears*, howls in heartbreak throughout Derek & the Dominos' *Layla*, and cries "Tears in Heaven" for forever 4-year-old Conor Clapton. Not as unghost written by English guitar god No. 1, mind you. The Yardbirds, John Mayall's Blue Breakers, George Harrison, Blind Faith, and almost four decades of solo work – that is to say, the music itself – all take a back seat to Clapton's 12-step mea culpa. In fact, as penned by the now 62-year-old Strat master, there's a case to be made for the guitarist masquerading as his own sideman since the first wave British Invasion. Never once in this bloodless, by-the-numbers recitation of rock & roll's contemporary big bang does Clapton self-aggrandize his role in its history. "What it was about for me was drinking," reiterates the author over and over in admitting that drug and alcohol abuse made his already brittle character more disagreeable. What kind of man wages a multiyear campaign for his best friend's wife (Harrison's former Pattie Boyd) only to lose interest upon conquest? A pampered jerk, naturally. And it's testimony to Jerry Lynn Williams' "Forever Man" that 341 pages confirming exactly that still make one want to blast "Badge." – *Raoul Hernandez*

CAN'T BUY ME LOVE: THE BEATLES, BRITAIN AND AMERICA

by Jonathan Gould
Harmony Books, 650 pp., $27.50



Acres of woodland have been laid to waste with books written about either the Beatles or the 1960s. Few, if any, approach both subjects together in the manner that Jonathan Gould does. Concentrating on the music, *Can't Buy Me Love* puts the band in a historical context that includes politics, religion, sex, war, civil rights, and personal freedoms, all charged with an ascendant youth-culture the world had never previously experienced. The focus remains on the Fab Four, from their Quarrymen beginnings to the acrimonious breakup, all before any of them reached the age of 30. The book's scope and, at more than 600 pages, its length, might seem daunting, yet the author's research leads to a galvanizing read, especially when enumerating influences as diverse as Elvis, Dylan, LSD, and the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Gould's critical eye, as a musician himself, leads to some insightful readings of "A Hard Day's Night," "Eleanor Rigby," and "Penny Lane." Those who lived through the era will find some thrills; others looking for social history will find engrossing detail. All will enjoy the tale of four extraordinary men and a band whose music can only be compared to itself. – *Jim Caligiuri*

NOTORIOUS C.O.P.: THE INSIDE STORY OF THE TUPAC, BIGGIE, AND JAM MASTER JAY INVESTIGATIONS FROM THE NYPD'S FIRST 'HIP-HOP COP'

by Derrick Parker with Matt Diehl
St. Martin's Griffin, 301 pp., $14.95 (paper)



Notorious C.O.P. is an opinionated firsthand account of the side of hip-hop you hide from your mother. Charged with the daunting task of standing up to New York's flyest, Derrick Parker spent 20 years combing the streets of Gotham for anyone flashing a mic and a handgun. The self-proclaimed "hip-hop cop" was raised a B-boy in Hollis, Queens, before joining the force and rising up the New York Police Department ranks, eventually heading the first special-force unit focused on rap-related crime. Hip-hop in the 1990s was a bloody sport, and really, who shot Big? Parker had his hand in all, and *C.O.P.* is his time to beat his chest and do some bragging, even if it's about his mundane escapades with J.Lo. Top-notch detective or not, this egocentric sleuth should stray far from the pen, as clichéd terminology and a knack for the typographical error run rampant in this stream-of-conscious tell-all that will leave you yearning for an abridged copy. – *Chase Hoffberger*

THE GROUPIE CHRONICLES







Morgana Welch was the girl next door – if you lived in Beverly Hills in the early 1970s. *Hollywood Diaries* (**www.xlibris.com/hollywooddiaries**, 150 pp., $27.89) is no torrid tell-all but, rather, Welch's self-published memoirs from her teenage diaries, written during her rise from Hollywood High School into the shiny ranks of supergroupies along the neon-coated Sunset Strip. In Welch's world, cavorting with Robert Plant is just another night. The unadorned entries are starkly beautiful: no revisionism but youthful fervor attempting sage assessment of a world barely in her grasp. She's Anne Frank with an all-access pass.

Dandelion: Memoir of a Free Spirit (St. Martin's Press, 240 pp., $24.95) is rock muse Catherine James' story, as painful as it is tenderly written. Fleeing an atrocious childhood of California-bred beauties and a gender-bending father, runaway James was befriended by Bob Dylan; lived with and had a child by Moody Blues/Wings guitarist Denny Laine; cohabited with Jackson Browne, then Mick Jagger; was immortalized by John Mayall in "Miss James"; and dallied with myriad more rock stars before pulling her life together (she's Diane Keaton's film double). Poor proofreading not withstanding, James' compact cautionary tale is engaging and readable.

No objectivity is intended in writing about Pamela Des Barres' *Let's Spend the Night Together* (Chicago Review Press, 400 pp., $24.95), since there's a chapter titled "Margaret Moser and the Texas Blondes." Yet the scope of Des Barres' subjects ranges across decades, race, economic class, and location in such a way as to create the first comprehensive document on groupiedom since *Groupies and Other Girls* in 1970. The author talks to classic groupies Cynthia Plaster Caster and Lori Lightning, true rock muses like Catherine James and Bebe Buell, and some surprise confessors, including cult actress Tura Satana, actress Patti D'Arbanville, and Elvira, Mistress of the Dark.

These three books are triangle opposites on a wheel, yet they all juggle the double themes of innocence lost and too much too soon in *Hollywood Babylon* and Gotham. Had she taken a more academic angle, Des Barres would be the Margaret Mead of rock courtesans. – *Margaret Moser*

News of the Weird

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



In November, Britain's new weather-themed Cool Cash lottery game was canceled after one day because too many players failed to understand the rules. Each card had a visible temperature and a temperature to be scratched off, and the purchaser would win if the scratched-off temperature was "lower" than the visible one. Officials said they had received "dozens" of complaints from players who could not understand why, for example, minus 5 is not a lower temperature than minus 6.

LEAD STORY

As an alternative to burial, cremation is no longer green enough, say environmentalists, because it releases smoke and mercury, and thus the industry is considering "promession," in which the body is frozen in liquid nitrogen to minus 320 degrees Fahrenheit and then shaken until it disintegrates into powder. For green burials, the United States has at least six cemeteries that require biodegradable casings and for bodies to be free of embalming chemicals. The Forever Fernwood cemetery in Mill Valley, Calif., goes even further, according to an October *Los Angeles Times* story, banning grave markers, but, said the owner, "We issue the family a Google map with the GPS coordinates," so they can find their loved one.

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

1) The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in October that attorney Michael Inglimo did not violate a state regulation that bars a lawyer from having sex "with a current client": Inglimo had sex with a client's girlfriend during a three-way session, but according to the judges, the regulation bans only direct sex with the client. (However, the court suspended Inglimo's license based on other grounds.) 2) Philadelphia Municipal Judge Teresa Carr Deni outraged women's activists and the local bar association in October when she dismissed rape charges against four men who had sex with a prostitute at gunpoint. Because the woman had initially agreed to a business proposition, said the judge, the men should properly be charged with "armed robbery" for "theft of services." Said Deni, "She consented, and she didn't get paid."

SCIENCE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

• Babies Out of Order: 1) Amelia Spence, 29, gave birth in Glasgow, Scotland, in October to two babies, one just minutes before the other, but they were not twins. The apparently superfertile Spence, though on contraceptive pills, conceived twice in a three-week period with eggs from successive monthly cycles ("superfetation"). 2) In Cary, N.C., a woman gave birth to twins early in the morning of Nov. 4, one at 1:32am and the other 34 minutes later, at 1:06am (after daylight saving time ended).

• University of Maastricht (Netherlands) researcher David Levy told the website LiveScience.com in October that he believes robots will be so highly developed by the middle of this century that a few people will even begin to marry them: "Once you have a story like, 'I had sex with a robot, and it was great!' appear someplace like *Cosmo*[*politan*] magazine, I'd expect many people to jump on the bandwagon." (Georgia Tech researcher Ronald Arkin added that perhaps robotic children could be used to satisfy pedophiles enough to keep them away from human children.)

• Doctors at Mackay Base Hospital in Australia saved the life of a 24-year-old Italian tourist in August after he had ingested a large amount of poisonous ethylene glycol (found in antifreeze), perhaps in an attempted suicide. The antidote, pharmaceutical-grade alcohol, was in short supply at the hospital, but doctors improvised by setting up a gastric drip and feeding him vodka at the rate of three standard drinks an hour for three days. He made a full recovery, according to an October report in Melbourne's *The Age*.

INJUDICIOUS JUDGES

• Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Michael Thomas Joyce, 58, was indicted in August for fraud in connection with $440,000 he received after his car was nudged (at 5 mph) in a 2001 accident. Joyce claimed that he was in such neck and back pain as to be prevented from certain activities such as holding a coffee cup, but prosecutors said he not only played golf frequently after that but went scuba diving, renewed his scuba instructor's license, went inline skating, and went through private pilot training and licensing (50 flights).

• In testimony at his divorce hearing (according to transcripts obtained by KUSA-TV), federal Judge Edward Nottingham admitted that he had visited strip clubs in Denver – and on two consecutive nights had run up tabs of more than $3,000 – but that he didn't know what else happened those nights because he was too drunk. Judge Nottingham's behavior was not courtroom-related, but the charge against Cincinnati Municipal Court Judge Ted Berry in July was. Berry had just sentenced Ivan Boykins to 30 days in jail, provoking Boykins to shout, "F--- you," which prompted a return "F--- you" from Judge Berry. (The bar association's response has not been reported.)

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT!

• 1) A price war broke out in November among chain stores in Britain, with Tesco, Sainsbury's, and Asda vying for the cheap-drunk customers, and at press time, Asda was leading by offering a low-end lager in multipacks for the equivalent of 46 cents a pint, which is less than colas or bottled water. 2) For those Britons who drink in pubs but miss the atmosphere as it was before smoking bans (for example, who may be disoriented by "new" smells that are no longer masked by cigarette smoke), the company Dale Air has introduced, in aerosol cans, a fragrance that it says mimics the musty, ashtray-based scent so familiar to veteran pub-goers.

• Bahadur Chand Gupta bought an old Airbus 300 and now offers weekly sessions in Delhi in which any of the 1 billion Indians who have never flown before can sit on a genuine (though disabled) airliner, listen to pilot announcements ("We are about to begin our descent into Delhi"), and be served by flight attendants. Said one customer (who paid the equivalent of about $4), "I see planes passing all day long over my roof. I had to try out the experience."

RECURRING THEMES

1) Once again, someone found a suspected live explosive on his property, put it in his car, and took it to the local police station (this time, a hand grenade, in Devon, England, in November). (For the record, emergency personnel would rather be told about an explosive than have it brought into their building.) 2) Once again, a motorist casually traveling on a highway had his vehicle crushed by an airborne cow (this time, near Manson, Wash., in November). The 600-pound cow had fallen off a cliff, totaling the minivan but not injuring the driver, who was quoted in an Associated Press dispatch saying repeatedly, "I don't believe this."

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at **newsoftheweird.blogspot.com** *(or* **www.newsoftheweird.com***). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or* **weirdnewstips@yahoo.com**.

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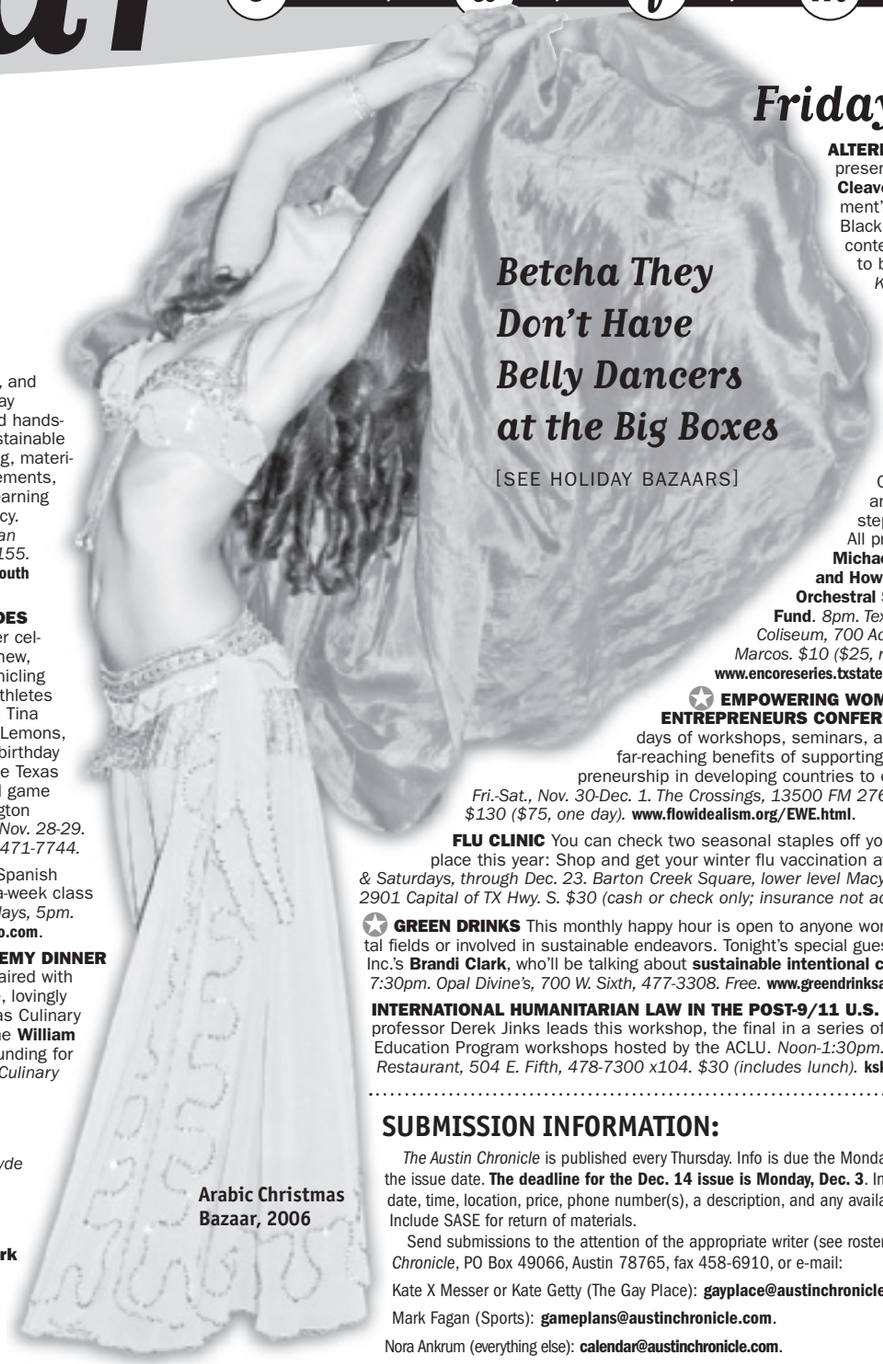
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COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS**, **FILM**, AND **MUSIC**) BY NORA ANKRUM



Arabic Christmas Bazaar, 2006

Thursday 29

2ND STREET DISTRICT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION It always looks like Christmas in the 2nd Street District, so they've had to come up with something extra special to prove that it really is holiday time. Tonight, the whole area will be alive with fashion shows, music, discounted shopping, prize giveaways, and more. Be sure to catch the screening of *Lost and Found* at the grand opening of St. Bernard Sport. *5-10pm. 2nd Street District, 201 Lavaca, 479-7600. Free.*

CARITAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Caritas of Austin, which works to provide support to those in financial crisis, launches this new group tonight with an evening of complimentary food and drinks. *6-8pm. Daily Grill, 11506 Century Oaks Terrace #100.* **www.caritasofaustin.org**.

CHALLENGES FACING BOARDS OF DIRECTORS: KEY ISSUES IN SEC DISCLOSURE & ENFORCEMENT The Directors Roundtable and the National Leadership Institute host this educational workshop for nonprofit directors and advisers. *8:30-11am. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 323/660-0016. Free.* **www.directorsroundtable.com**.

GET MADE HAPPY HOUR features complimentary makeovers, massages, and tasty treats to go with your discounted shopping this evening. *7-9pm. Flirt, 2405 Nueces Ste. H, 472-4440.* **www.flirtinaustin.com**.

GRETCHEN PHILLIPS & SILKY SHOEMAKER present their (and others') musings on "sapphistry, among other magical things." Bound to be entertaining and painfully charming. *8pm. Flipnotics Coffeespace, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646.*

HELP THE ELF Join Crumpet the Elf and Sen. **Kirk Watson** for this special reception and performance of David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries*, to benefit the various nonprofits of **Community Shares**. *7pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 728-8188. $50.* **www.cppp.org/images/communityshares.jpg**.

HOTELS OF TEXAS Looking for an out-of-the-ordinary place to stay when you're traveling this holiday season? Join Liz Carmack, author of *Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide*, for a discussion of the many historic hotels throughout the state. *6-8pm. Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.*

HOUSING THAT WORKS, FOR PEOPLE & THE PLANET American YouthWorks, YouthBuild, AmeriCorps, and Habitat for Humanity host this two-day symposium featuring information and hands-on workshops on green building, sustainable energy policies for affordable housing, materials selection, financing, code requirements, and more for anyone interested in learning about the benefits of energy efficiency. *Thu.-Fri., Nov. 29-30. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 236-6155. $175 ($100, one day).* **www.americanyouthworks.org/Conference_Details.htm**.

INSIDE THE ARENA: THREE DECADES OF LEGENDS The Frank Erwin Center celebrates its 30th anniversary with a new, permanent photography exhibit chronicling three decades' worth of legendary athletes and entertainers, including Liberace, Tina Turner, B.B. King, Kevin Durant, Abe Lemons, and many others. Stop by for some birthday cake during half-time this week of the Texas vs. Texas Southern men's basketball game Wednesday or the Texas vs. UT-Arlington women's game Thursday. *Wed.-Thu., Nov. 28-29. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744.*

SPANGLISH 101 Both English and Spanish speakers are welcome at this once-a-week class that teaches both languages. *Thursdays, 5pm. 1303 S. Congress. Free.* **zen2ltd@yahoo.com**.

TEXAS CULINARY STUDENT ACADEMY DINNER Enjoy a four-course dinner tonight, paired with various wines from around the globe, lovingly prepared by the students of the Texas Culinary Academy. Partial proceeds benefit the **William Bower Foundation**, which provides funding for home hospice services. *7pm. Texas Culinary Academy, Ventana Dining Room, 11400 Burnet Rd. #2100. $80.*

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.)
Thom Pain (based on nothing) *Hyde Park Theatre*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
D Berman Gallery, **Gallery Lombardi**, **Women & Their Work**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
***Showgirls* 2.0** *@ Alamo Lake Creek, 7:30pm*

Friday 30

Betcha They Don't Have Belly Dancers at the Big Boxes

[SEE HOLIDAY BAZAARS]

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents **Kathleen Cleaver** on the government's repression of the Black Panthers and the contemporary lessons to be drawn. *2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

COWBOY CHRISTMAS BALL Michael Murphey the Singing Cowboy Poet joins the Texas State University Orchestra to provide an evening of two-stepping holiday fun. All proceeds benefit the **Michael Martin Murphey and Howard Hudiburg Orchestral Scholarship Fund**. *8pm. Texas State Strahan Coliseum, 700 Aquarena, San Marcos. $10 ($25, reserved seating).* **www.encoreseries.txstate.edu**.

EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS CONFERENCE features two days of workshops, seminars, and panels on the far-reaching benefits of supporting women's entrepreneurship in developing countries to end global poverty. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 877/944-3003. $130 ($75, one day).* **www.flowidealism.org/EWE.html**.

FLU CLINIC You can check two seasonal staples off your to-do list at one place this year: Shop and get your winter flu vaccination at the mall. *Fridays & Saturdays, through Dec. 23. Barton Creek Square, lower level Macy's court, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S. $30 (cash or check only; insurance not accepted).*

GREEN DRINKS This monthly happy hour is open to anyone working in environmental fields or involved in sustainable endeavors. Tonight's special guest is Enviromentality Inc.'s **Brandi Clark**, who'll be talking about **sustainable intentional communities**. *5:30-7:30pm. Opal Divine's, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free.* **www.greendrinksaustin.blogspot.com**.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN THE POST-9/11 U.S. UT School of Law professor Derek Jinks leads this workshop, the final in a series of Continuing Legal Education Program workshops hosted by the ACLU. *Noon-1:30pm. Carmelo's Italian Restaurant, 504 E. Fifth, 478-7300 x104. $30 (includes lunch).* **kskotak@aclutx.org**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 14 issue is Monday, Dec. 3**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**.

Mark Fagan (Sports): **gameplans@austinchronicle.com**.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

the young ones

BISCUIT BROTHERS' MERRY MUSICAL CHRISTMAS An old-fashioned sing-along for the whole family, featuring familiar holiday favorites and brand-new originals from the Brothers' new CD – be sure to get your copy signed after the performance. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 7pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. $10 ($8, kids; $3, under 12 months).* **www.scottishritetheatre.org**.

LA PASTORELA: A SHEPARD'S STORY The forces of good and evil clash in this annual holiday performance. *Through Dec. 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 293-1250. $8-12 (free, kids under 12; pay-what-you-can, Thursdays).* **www.lapastorela.com**.

GEM CAPERS (See Ongoing.) *Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. $1-5 (free, kids 5 & under; 50 cents, ages 6-12).* **www.austingemandmineral.org**.

THE TOYS TAKE OVER CHRISTMAS Find out what happens when a toy maker's creations decide they don't want to be stuck on the shelf anymore. *Dec. 1-22. Sat., 10am; Sun., 2pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. $10 ($8, ages 1-12; $3, infant).* **www.scottishritetheatre.org**.

MAGNET CHOICE FAIR Elementary- and middle-school students and parents are welcome to explore Austin's magnet school opportunities at this open house. *Sat., Dec. 1, 9am-noon. Kealing Middle School, 1607 Pennsylvania Ave., 414-9986. Free.*

MAKING ART WITH MATISSE Join Henri Matisse's grandson Pierre for this interactive art-making workshop. Call to reserve your spot. *Sat., Dec. 1, 11am-1pm. Russell Collection, 10000 Research #130, 478-4440. Free.* **www.russell-collection.com**.

A SPECIAL NUTCRACKER READING of Bill Jeffers' version of *The Nutcracker* with Ballet Austin's **Sophi Siragusa** (aka Clara). *Sat., Dec. 1, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

GIRLSTART COMMUNITY CAMP'S SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA Join GirlStart for an afternoon exploring the fun side of science, math, and technology: Identify constellations in the GirlStart **planetarium**, discover the joys of everyday science in the **Science Fair Showcase**, and more. *Sat., Dec. 1, 1-4pm. Ann Richards School, 2206 Prather. Free.* **www.girlstart.org**.

SEUSSICAL A musical celebration of all things Dr. Seuss from the Theatre for Young Audiences. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2, 3pm. Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Theater, Southwestern University, 1001 E. University, Georgetown, 863-1378. $15 ($10, seniors/kids 16 & under).* **www.southwestern.edu/boxoffice**.

CYNTHIA & GREG LEITICH SMITH share their *Santa Knows*, a picture book that's here just in time for the holidays. The authors will sign copies afterward. *Sun., Dec. 2, 1pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY features games, arts & crafts, face-painting, music, and more to entertain the kiddies while Santa hands out 1,500 presents. *Sun., Dec. 2, 12:30-5pm. Delco Center, 4601 Pecan Brook Dr., 542-9622. Free.* **agonzalez@austinymca.org**.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE *Sun., Dec. 2, 1:30pm. St. Stephen's Episcopal School, 2900 Bunny Run, 327-1213 x299. Free.* **www.sstx.org/admission**.

AN AFTERNOON OF CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATIONS Kathi Appelt, Mary Lankford, Jane Peddicord, Nathan Jensen, and others share their works with you today. *Sun., Dec. 2, 2-4:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

LILY PLANTS A GARDEN Learn about hope and overcoming conflict in this shadow-puppet show presented by UT's Department of Theatre and Dance. *Wed., Dec. 5, 6pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. $1.*

BISCUIT BROTHERS CD RELEASE PARTY Get the new CD from the Brothers themselves at tonight's live performance. *Thu., Dec. 6, 5:30-8pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. $3.* **www.austinkids.org**.

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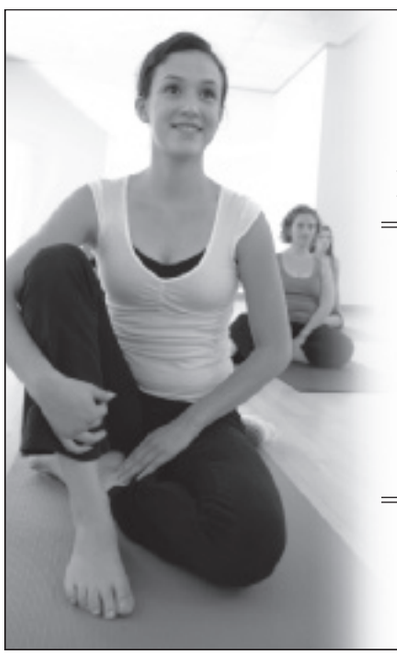
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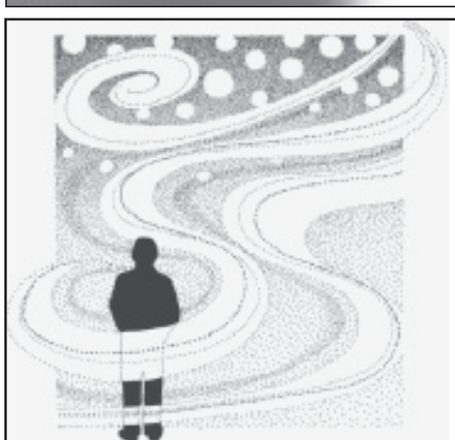
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Sunday, December 2, 3-5 pm

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www.monarcheventcenter.com

LA PASTORELA TURNS 10 The annual holiday play turns 10 this year – celebrate with an evening of music, memorabilia, and a silent auction. *6pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 474-8497.* **www.lapastorela.com**.

LEARN SOMETHING AWESOME! We love this event, which ensures that even if you're hungover when you wake up Saturday morning, you'll at least be just a little bit smarter. Tonight, awesome things to learn include installing solar panels, making your own holiday gifts, releasing your own album, and more. *7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.*

LIVING NATIVITY PRESENTATIONS celebrate the birth of Christ with nightly performances throughout the weekend and a petting zoo featuring live camels. *Thu.-Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 7 & 8:15pm. Park Hills Baptist Church, 900 MoPac S., 327-2500. Free.* **www.parkhillsbaptist.org**.

MUELLER TOWER LIGHTING CELEBRATION Bring the whole family for live entertainment and holiday treats as you commemorate the relighting of the old Noel sign on the former airport control tower, and decorate a few trees to be donated to **Dell Children's Medical Center**, the **Ronald McDonald House**, and the **Austin Children's Shelter**. *6:30pm. Mueller Central, off Airport Boulevard, between Manor and I-35. Free.*

PEOPLE UNITED features civil-rights advocates discussing new waves of struggle. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

TOWN LAKE TRAIL FUNDRAISER Join Mayor **Will Wynn**, **Lynda Robb** (daughter of Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson), and others tonight as they celebrate Town Lake Trail and all the ways it makes Austin such a great place. Enjoy free food and music, and be sure to get your copy of **Jen Ohlson**'s new book *Every Town Needs a Trail* so that you can have it signed by the author herself. *6:30pm. Run-Tex, 422 W. Riverside.* **www.everytownneedsatrail.com**.

HOUSING THAT WORKS, FOR PEOPLE & THE PLANET (See Thursday 11/29.)

VISUAL ARTS (See Arts Listings.)
Austin Figurative Gallery: Layers *Austin Figurative Gallery*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Austin Figurative Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 7:15pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The English Beat *Antone's*
Black Joe Lewis, **Brothers & Sisters** *Victory Grill*
Jon Dee Graham CD Release *Continental Club*

Saturday 01

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE MOBILE GO CENTER Get some help filling out your college application and financial aid forms today, and take advantage of the library's scholarship and university research resources. *11am-5pm. Faulk Central Branch Library, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free.*

BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE Come get your good deals on hardbacks, paperbacks, DVDs, CDs, and even videos this weekend at this fundraiser for Bastrop's public library. You'll also have the chance to bid on rare books in the silent auction. *10am-4pm. Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church St., Bastrop, 512/321-5441.* **j_qkurtz@msn.com**.

CAMPUS ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT TO END THE OCCUPATIONS Otherwise known as CAMEO, this campus anti-war group hosts a talk today from a war veteran who will discuss his experiences and his opposition to the war in Iraq. *3pm. UT campus, CMA Rm. 3.112. Free.*

CAPITOL TREE LIGHTING & CONGRESS AVENUE STROLL keeps Austin Christmasy with the annual sing-along hosted by *Eklektikos* host **John Aielli**, followed by the lighting of the 40-foot tree at 7pm. After that, you can join in on the holiday stroll, featuring special activities hosted by the shops, museums, and restaurants along Congress as well as performances from the Austin Clickity Cloggers, Ballet Austin, Invincible Czars, Super Sonic Soul Squad, and others. *6-9pm. Texas state Capitol, 1100 Congress, 305-8400. Free (don't forget to bring nonperishable food or cash donations to place under the tree for those in need this holiday season).* **www.downtownaustin.com**.

CAPOEIRA ANGOLA AFRO-BRAZILIAN MARTIAL ART *Saturdays, 2-4pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS *Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 750-0586. $25.*

DANCELAB promises "mad soulful rhythms for seriously fun dancing" – not a bad way to kick off a Saturday night. *7:30pm. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 797-9297. $10.*

HEART GALLERY OPENING CELEBRATION features magic shows, face-painting, and other festivities to kick off this photography exhibit displaying portraits of children available for adoption in Texas. *10am-3pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. $3.50-5.50 (free, kids under 1 year).* **www.austinkids.org**.

HELP TREEFOLKS PLANT 100 TREES You bring the muscles; TreeFolks brings the trees, tools, and refreshments. E-mail to RSVP. Be sure to sign in by 9am. *9am-noon. Ramsey Park, 4301 N. Rosedale, 43rd & Burnet Road.* **admin@treefolks.org**.

HOLIDAY NIGHT Ladies, dust off your ball gowns. Gentleman, dig out that tux. It's an evening of old Hollywood-style glamour in the name of charity as you dance the night away to benefit the **Austin Miracle League** and **Any Baby Can**. *8pm-1am. Austin Studios, 1901 E. 51st, 322-0145. $50.* **www.charitableladies.com**.

KENTUCKY FRIED CRUELTY PROTEST gathers today to speak out against KFC's treatment of animals at supplier warehouses and slaughterhouses. Call or e-mail for details. *11am-1pm. Kentucky Fried Chicken, 2224 E. Riverside, 351-8032.* **sthomas4242@yahoo.com**.

MAMAL: MUSIC & MODERN ART LIVE features artist demonstrations, live music, kids activities, and free treats. *Jerry's Artarama, 6010 N. I-35, 420-9359.* **www.jerrysaustin.com**.

MAN FEST Give your testosterone a workout today with a little gentlemanly arm-wrestling competition, some pictures in the lumberjack photo booth, and a good old-fashioned shoe shine to make your father proud. The Confidettes and Golden Bear will keep you entertained while the weiners and free manly drinks will keep your chest hairs growing. *2-7pm. Birds Barbershop, 2110 S. Lamar, 442-8800. Free.* **www.birdsbarbershop.com**.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR ALLERGIES WORKSHOP *1pm. Natural Health Center of Austin, 4701 West Gate Blvd. Ste. B-202, 922-9796. Free.*

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129 or 447-8212. Free.* **www.austinsahajayoga.org**.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Help the Friends of Red Bud Isle this morning with spreading mulch, moving rocks, removing invasive plants, and more. Register online. *9am-1pm. Red Bud Isle Park, 3401 Red Bud Trail.* **www.austinparks.org**.

VOODOO DOLLS' DOORDINGER Join Austin's all-girl classic car club today, or just come out and enjoy the classic cars, art show, live music, and more. *1-8pm. The Parlor Hyde Park, 4300 Guadalupe, 323-0440.* **janehotrodjohnson@gmail.com**.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE invites you to gather in honor of both those we've lost and of those we don't have to. *7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 459-5883. Free.*

EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS CONFERENCE (See Friday.)

FLU CLINIC (See Friday.)

LIVING NATIVITY PRESENTATIONS (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Bolm Studios Gallery, **Tiru Gallery**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
"Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud" *@ 501 Studios Theater, 9:15pm*
Ragna-Rock *@ 501 Studios Theater, 4:30pm*
The Rocky Horror Picture Show *@ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid*
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 7:15pm*
UT Hollywood Showcase *@ 501 Studios, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Black, **Yellow Fever** *Hole in the Wall*
Benefit for Craig of World Burns to Death *Emo's*
Tia Carrera *Mohawk*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Texas Musicians Museum** in Hillsboro takes visitors on a magical tour of musical history. What makes this shrine to Texas melody-makers special is the guided tour led by the man who collected the impressive array of artifacts.

"We just want to show how fantastic Texas music history is," says Thomas Kreason, the museum's executive director and chief procurement officer. He "retired" to a small town after working more than 20 years in the music and promotion business, including decorating Hard Rock Cafes with rock & roll memorabilia.

The little house a couple of blocks north of the county courthouse contains Kreason's personal collection of souvenirs that illustrate the evolution of Texas music. "Over the years he has been a very discriminating collector," Marianne Butler says of her husband. "For instance, he'll buy boxes of records and only keep one or two. I'd want to keep all of them."

A few years ago, Kreason purchased the old record collection of a radio station in the Texas Panhandle. Among the dusty 45 rpm records was an instrumental that Waylon Jennings had used as his intro music while working as a deejay at the Lubbock station. The label was covered with notes written by Jennings to himself.

"[Jennings] was such a great and special musician," Kreason says as he launches into a story about the Buddy Holly band member who took the bus instead of the airplane on that fateful day in 1959.

Another of Kreason's favorite musicians is J.P. "Big Bopper" Richardson. As the story goes, Jennings gave up his seat to the Bopper on the flight that ended in a cornfield. A corner of a room is dedicated to the Beaumont deejay who died with Holly. On a stylish Fifties television, a scratchy film shows Richardson singing his signature "Hello Baby" in what might be the first music video.

After the last notes of "Chantilly Lace" fade on the black-and-white video, Kreason opens the door to a small porch to show the visitors Richardson's casket. Now that's a rare piece of rock & roll history. The dented and stained gold metal box resembles the body style of a Sixties Chevy Corvair and definitely looks used. Fortunately, Richardson didn't have any further use for the box, but I'll let Kreason explain why.

Kreason has crammed a lot of musical history into this little house. From Gene Autry to ZZ Top, the displays tell of the progression of Texas music history. At nearly every turn on the tour there are surprises large and small. On the bookshelf under a display of rare Crickets album covers is a copy of the musician's sixth-grade annual open to a bespectacled Buddy Holley (as a performer, he dropped the "e").

Fans of Dale Evans, who was born in Uvalde and grew up in nearby Italy, Texas, will enjoy the sultry publicity photograph of the singing cowgirl taken before she became Roy Roger's partner. Also represented in the glass cases are Jim Reeves, the Dixie Chicks, Tanya Tucker, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bob Wills, and the Light Crust Doughboys.

One of the best parts of the museum is the information on Texas blues singers. Even hardcore blues enthusiasts will learn something new about the lineage of Negro music from the cotton fields to Carnegie Hall. The musical snippets that accompany Kreason's stories feature Alger "Texas" Alexander singing a version of "The House of the Rising Sun" in 1928.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Fromholtz to Tubb

Kreason makes the argument that rock & roll was born in a recording studio in Houston. In 1949, Goree Carter recorded a jazzy blues record with all the musical elements of a sound that became popular a decade later. When Kreason drops the needle on the old 45 record, through the pops and crackles both the driving guitar riffs and the equipment become part of the historical display.

The Texas Musicians Museum is at 212 N. Waco St. in Hillsboro. The gallery is open Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 6pm; Friday and Saturday, noon to 9pm; and closed Sunday through Tuesday. Admission is $10 for adults. For information, call 254/580-9780 or go to **www.texasmusiciansmuseum.com**.

856th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, *a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for $8.95, plus $3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.*

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL leads to special events in Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Llano, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Marble Falls, Round Mountain, New Braunfels, and Wimberley. *Through Jan. 1. 866/839-3378.* **www.tex-fest.com**.

EMILYANN TRAIL OF LIGHTS features lighted displays and nightly entertainment around Ye Olde Yule Log. *Through Jan. 1. EmilyAnn Theatre, Wimberley, 512/847-6969.* **www.emilyann.org**.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE & DICKENS CHRISTMAS The Friday evening parade leads into an all-day Saturday event featuring a Birds of Prey show, a Dickens reenactment, and a yule log, plus arts & crafts, music, and thousands of twinkling lights. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Lockhart, 512/398-2818. Free.* **www.lockhart-tx.org**.

WEIHNACHTSMARKT is a German Christmas shopping market featuring unique gifts, decorations, and antiques. *Dec. 1-2. Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. Wursthalle in Landa Park, New Braunfels, 830/629-1572.* **www.sophienburg.com**.

TREASURES FROM THE CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM showcases the author's personal items from the London museum in a rare traveling exhibit that arrives just in time for the Dickens on the Strand Victorian Holiday Festival. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2. Tremont House, 2300 Shipis Mechanic Row, Galveston, 409/765-7834.* **www.galvestonhistory.org**.

TRAIL OF LIGHTS leads down a quarter-mile path illuminated by thousands of lights ending at an 1850s German home for refreshments and entertainment. Reservations required. *Saturdays, Dec. 1, 8, & 15; Fridays, Dec. 7 & 14. Monument Hill State Park, La Grange, 979/968-5658. $12.* **www.tpwd.state.tx.us**.

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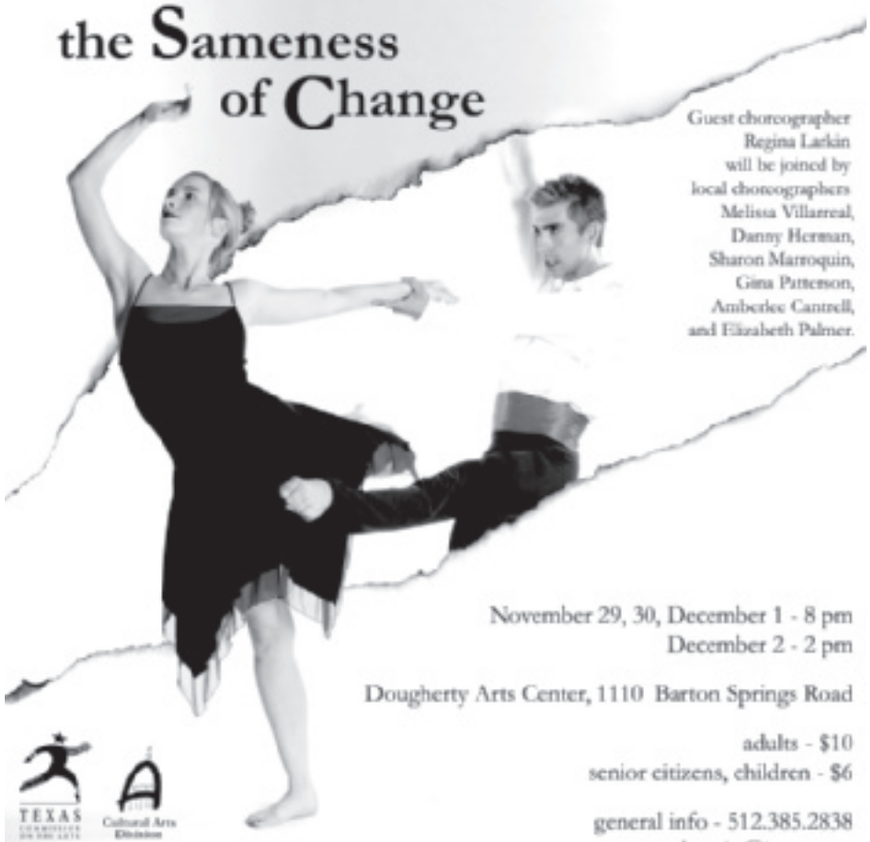
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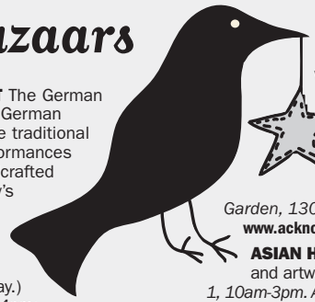
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Holiday Bazaars



AUSTIN WEIHNACHTSMARKT The German Free School hosts this annual German Christmas market featuring live traditional German Christmas music performances and tax-free shopping for handcrafted wooden imports from Germany's Erzgebirge region, plus blown-glass ornaments, embroidered linens, and more. (St. Nikolaus will be making a special appearance on Saturday.) *Thu., Nov. 29 & Dec. 4-5, noon-4pm; Sat., Dec. 1, 10am-4pm. German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-4847.* **www.gths.net**.

XMAS EXPO kicks off Gallery Lombardi's Christmas Group Show exhibit with a holiday-shopping bazaar featuring the fine works of more than 50 area artists. Items on sale will include ceramics, paintings, photography, mixed media, and hand-crafted items like jewelry, silk-screened T-shirts, and handbags. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7-10pm. Gallery Lombardi, 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT features three days of booksignings, artist demonstrations, and discounted shopping for artistic and environmentally friendly gifts. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Fri.-Sat., 9am-5:30pm; Sun., noon-5pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. Free.* **www.wildflower.org**.

THORTON ROAD STUDIOS HOLIDAY ART SALE South Austin artists open their studios to the public today for holiday treats from Best Wurst, live music from Language Room and Little Mikey & the Soda Jerks, and shopping for raku pottery, ceramic art, paintings, jewelry, glass- and metalwork, figurative sculpture, and more. *Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. Thorton Road Studio Complex, 2311 Thorton Rd., 443-1611.* **www.thorntonroadstudios.com**.

ACKNOWLEDGE ME This DIY crafts market and zine fair features vegan treats, live music (see Club Listings, p.100), and screenings of *DIY or Die* and *Handcraft Nation*. All proceeds benefit **Habitat on Wheels**, which helps Austin's homeless purchase RVs. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm-2am. Scoot Inn & Beer Garden, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. $5.* **www.acknowledge-me.com**, **www.habitatonwheels.com**.

ASIAN HOLIDAY BAZAAR features Asian gifts and artwork, holiday teas, and snacks. *Sat., Dec. 1, 10am-3pm. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069. Free.* **www.asianamericancc.com**.

HOLIDAY ART FESTIVAL with the works of more than 60 Central Texas artists on sale for your holiday shopping pleasure, plus an art book swap, live music, artist demos, a silent auction, raffle prizes, and more. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2, 10am-5pm. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. $5 (free, Friends of Laguna Gloria members/kids under 12).* **www.amoa.org/holidayartfestival**.

HOMESPUN HOLIDAYS The Austin Farmers' Market hosts several local artisans this week for your holiday shopping, plus cooking and soap-making demonstrations, a petting pen for the kids, an appearance from Santa, live music, and a tasty mix of local produce, meats, and organic products. *Dec. 1 & 8, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

MARKET ON 22ND STREET join the University Baptists for some warm winter drinks and holiday shopping. *Sat., Dec. 1, 9am-7pm. University Baptist Church, 2130 Guadalupe, 478-8559. Free.* **www.ubcaustin.org**.

SUSTAINABLE SHOPPER'S BALL: HAVE A GREEN, GREEN CHRISTMAS The Sunset Valley Farmers Market plays host this weekend to Austin's favorite all-local, all-green Sustain-a-Ball marketplace, featuring 60 vendors of environmentally sustainable products and services, kids activities, solar-powered live music (see Club Listings, p.100), and more. Don't miss **Brandi Clark**'s presentation on **Easy Ways to Green Your Holidays**, Bee Moorehead's talk on **Connections Between Faith & Environmentalism**, or Randy Jewart's panel discussion **What Does a Sustainable Community Look Like?** *Sat., Dec. 1, 9am-2pm. Toney Burger Athletic Center, 3200 Jones, 535-4804. Free.* **www.sustain-a-ball.org**.

WHEATSVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL This annual arts & crafts fair features two days of live music and shopping among the handmade goodies of 60 local artists. (See Club Listings, p.100.) *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2, 10am-5:30pm. Wheatsville Co-op, 3101 Guadalupe, 478-2667. Free.*

YULE FEST ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR features artwork, jewelry, knitwear, pottery, and more, plus a silent auction and bake sale to benefit **SafePlace** and to provide child care for Live Oak Unitarian's women's groups. *Dec. 1-2, 10am-4pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park. Free.* **www.liveoakuu.org/yulefest07.htm**.

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR features belly-dancing performances and classes, henna tattoos, free Arabic coffees and desserts, and Middle Eastern music. Oh yeah, and shopping! Get your handmade gifts imported straight from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. *Dec. 2-23. Sundays, 11am-6pm. The Arabic Bazaar & Zein's Dance Studio, 51st & Duval, 533-9227. Free.* **www.wmdproductions.com**.

SAINT MARY CATHEDRAL'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Stop by for breakfast and gift shopping. *Sun., Dec. 2, 9am-2pm. Saint Mary Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 476-6182.*

BOULDIN CREEK STUDIO TOUR takes you on a crisp, cool journey through several area artist's homes and studios, where you can buy your one-of-a-kind holiday gifts from real people who put real love into their creations. *Sat., Dec. 1, 10am-2pm. Glitzkrieg/Stitch Lab Studio, 1608 S. Third.* **www.bouldincreekstudiotour.com**.

Sunday 02

CHANUKAH IN THE ROUND Join the Jewish Community Association of Austin, Congregation Shir Ami, and Hadassaha this afternoon for a multigenerational candle lighting ceremony with performances by the Congregation Shir Ami choir and guitarist Carol Rubin, plus arts and crafts, face-painting, and dreidel games. Bring an unwrapped gift for donation to Austin State Hospital's **Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services**. *3-5pm. Brushy Creek Community Center, 16318 Great Oaks Dr. Free.* **www.shalomaustin.org/chanukah**.

DANCING WITH THE AUSTIN STARS See how Austin's celebrities fare on the dance floor when paired with professional dancers for a night of entertainment to benefit the **Center for Child Protection**. The evening also features an auction and a raffle with all kinds of cool items, including a Hybrid Lexus LUV. *6-11pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 472-1164. $150.* **www.centerforchildprotection.org**.

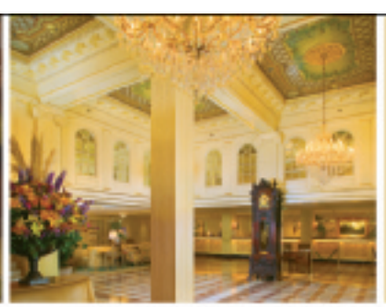
DISCO WONDERLAND GALA Dance the night away and take home a few luxury items from the silent auction tonight to raise money for **Austin Jewish Academy** scholarships and programs. *5:30pm. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum, 735-8350.* **www.austinjewishacademy.org**.

THANKS, NOKOA, FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE honors the long-running progressive weekly with an open house featuring wine and treats, conversation, and making connections with Austin's progressive community. *4-7pm. Lyons Garden Senior Center, 2720 Lyons. $20-30 suggested donation ($10, students/seniors).* **www.thirdcoastactivist.org**.

LIVING NATIVITY PRESENTATIONS (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Interkosmos *@ 501 Studios Theater, 4:30pm*
Ragna-Roll *@ 501 Studios Theater, 2pm*
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 4, 10pm*


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BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

QUEERS N QUILTS Today is the last day to see the quilt. The amazing AIDS Quilt, a moving and tangible monument to the ongoing battle. The last day of the weeklong quilt-hanging (loud and proud, girlfriend) in honor of **World AIDS Day** and the people who will not be forgotten. *Thu., Nov. 29. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.*

'SHOWGIRLS' WITH DAVID SCHMADER *Tonight*. When this glitzy stripper drama came out, everyone agreed it was awful. But, as years passed, the campiness of this oafish flick started to shine, growing it to cult-classic fame. Couple that with Seattle's quirky commentator **David Schmader** giving more than just 2 cents – his comedic analysis is worth having to watch Jessie Spano get naked. Almost. Mama. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-8135. $12.*

THE NEOVAGINA MONOLOGUES Evie Ensler, eat yer damn heart out. These are the tales of transformation, destruction of stereotypes, and **Sandy Stone**, sitting right in the middle of it. Used to be the eldest son of a Conservative Jewish family. Then, the mainstream music scene found her, touring with Jimi and Jerry. Then, feminist battles at Olivia Records. And now, Sandy, as an associate prof (RTF) at UT has stories that need to be told. The stories of her life, her evolution, her reality, and the lives of other transgendered individuals. Do tell. (For more, see Arts, p.38.) (Ooh. Catch Sandy early on the day of the last show for a workshop: *Sat., Dec 1, 1-3pm.*) *Thu.-Sat., Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-LAVA.* **www.vortexrep.org**.

GO-GO GET YOUR PARTY ON Let's do that party thang with **Equality Texas** Let's do that **Holiday-a-Go-Go** and get all the way down with stiff cocktails, savory hors d'oeuvres, smooth music, sexy go-go dancers (say what?), and sassy mistletoe fun! Hang one from yer belt buckle, and see who's game. (It works. Take our word for it.) Foods by In Good Taste and an open bar. Wow. Our dreams come true. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7-10pm. Midtown Office of Austin Title, 3009 N. Lamar. $40.* **www.eqfed.org/ct/udAgc3n1eR9a/tickets**.

LAST PUSH: PRIDE BUILD 2007 Our sweet li'l LGBT-ness has raised $50,000 so far. An anonymous donor offered to kick in the last $5,000 if the community can raise $5,000. OK! Go! Oh, and physical volunteers are still needed, as well. Visit **www.austinpridebuild.blogspot.com** for pics and details. *Austin Habitat for Humanity, 310 Comal #100, 472-8788.* **info@ahfh.org**, **www.austinhabitat.org**.

DON'T GET US SINGIN' THE 'THONG SONG' Wackiness abounds (amidst a multitude of other bobbing orbs) as locals take to the upcoming holiday **Trail of Lights** in Speedos and Santa hats (your guess as to what goes where) for a 5K to benefit **OutYouth**. *On Dancer! On Prancer!* If you are up for the challenge and ready to get your chestnuts roasting on an open hugger, why don't you join them and raise some dough for the kids? Check out the website or e-mail the head nut. *Sat., Dec. 8.* **www.austinsantaspeedorun.com**.

SWING IT! Dance lessons. Sentimental Journeys. The Studebakers. Jet Blue. Swangin'. You know the drill. Save the date for **Holiday Swing**, the annual end-of-the-year bash to benefit **Project Transitions**. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 454-8646. $65 at the door/$55 in advance.* **jrosen@projecttransitions.org**, **www.projecttransitions.org/holidayswing**.

NEKKIDNEKKIDNEKKID Just something about naked boys that has us circumnavigating our straightness. Join us, maybe in clothes, maybe not, for **aGLIFF**'s screening of ***Naked Boys Singing!*** No, really. Join *us*! Check the **Gay Place Blog** for your chance to win at a ticket giveaway, because that's this week, and you've been looking for a reason to take it off, take it aaaaaaallll off. (Oooooh, and also join us for the boom-chicka afterparty at **Rain**, hosted by **HRC** and giving away a freebie **iPod Shuffle** to a lucky ticket holder). Wheee. Ain't life grand? Especially when you're naked? *Tue., Dec. 4, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.* **austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog**.

GRETCHEN PHILLIPS SAYS YES! Two shows at Flip's! This Thursday with CampCamp's Silky Shoemaker, and next week with Jay Byrd. *Thu., Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 8pm. Flipnotics Coffeespace, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646.* **www.gretchen-phillips.com**.

CALLING ALL FEMINIST VIDEO MAKERS Next month, **CampCamp** is a **Feminist Video Art Show**. Want to be included in the fray? E-mail and become the magic. **Campcampqueers@gmail.com**.

WORLD AIDS DAY CONFERENCE In conjunction with national celebrations for World AIDS Day, here's one that makes you think. UT is hosting a one-day conference, organized around panels addressing concerns, advocacy, awareness, stereotypes, stigmas, and shame about HIV/AIDS. Looking it right in the face and being real about it. *Sat., Dec. 1, 10:30am-5pm. Texas Union, Eastwoods Room. Free.* **gabriela.redwine@gmail.com**.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE Interfaith. Intercommunity. Open to all faiths. Come pay homage, to remember and regrow our awareness every year for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Because, ultimately, we all are. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson.* **www.thecarecommunities.org**.

TEN YEARS OZ Anniversaries come and go, but 10 years of **Oz Parties** is saying something. Ten years! Ten years of socializing, new friends, old friends, and an opportunity for HIV-positive straight, gay, bisexual, and transgendered folks to frolic. For directions and what dish you should bring, e-mail or check the Web. *Sat., Dec. 8, 7-11pm. $5-10, suggested contribution.* **theozparties@hotmail.com**, **www.theozparties.org**.

ONCE-A-MONTH MUSIC It's not every day you getta get down in your favorite feminist shop, flipping through paperbacks along with your rock & roll. Not *every* day, just once a month. Music amongst the stacks. This month, **Luna Tart** brings her timeless croony jazz and ukulele-plucking to help out an old friend. Check her out, and buy something. That way, we ensure that **BookWoman** is on her way to being *not* a thing of the past (nearly raising an urgent $20,000 in the heat of crisis, thanks to all those chippers-in), but, instead, the store that just keeps on ticking. Keep the love alive. *Sun., Dec. 2, 7pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. $5 suggested donation.*

TAKING CANDY FROM FIREFIGHTERS This last-Friday-of-the-month **CandyBar** features a calendar signing by those gals who probably get tired of being called "hotties," your friendly neighborhood Austin, Texas, firefighters. Hose optional. *Fri., Nov. 30, 9pm. Sky Lounge. Free.* **www.missmanagedproductions.com**, **www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com**.

HO HO HOMO FOR THE HOLIDAYS Deck the halls with gay. Don it. **Kings N Things**, the **Gendermyn**, the **United Court of Austin**, **NOLA's Crescent City Kings**, and **Santa**. Sit on *all* their laps; we'll buy you a beer. A holiday show like no other with 10% of proceeds going to helping **SafePlace**'s families have a happy holiday season. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child or adult to donate, and get $2 off your admission! Bells. Mistletoes. Drag kings. Sigh. We love the holidays. *Fri., Dec. 7, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. $10.* **www.austin-safeplace.org**.

CONFABULOUS Rekindle. **ALLGO**'s **confab** film series. So we caught the first; now we catch the last: ***Chutney Popcorn***. The series promotes LGBT-people-of-color-themed flicks to make you think. This one tackles Indian traditions and reproductive norms. A doozy indeed. *Tue., Dec. 11, 6:30pm. ALLGO, 701 Tillery, 472-2001.* **allgo.org/confab.htm**.

SAY IT AIN'T SO We'd hoped the rumor wasn't true, but 'tis. **Jenn Garrison** (and her quite lovely pard Anastasia, too) flee the Lone Star for a different kind of star. Dom. L.A. La-La Land. Our old friend **DJ Amerykah** will make sure their parting music is fresh enough to move to, with drink specials and a big smooch goodbye. Mwah, sisters. You shall be sorely missed. *Sun., Dec. 16, 8pm. Molotov Lounge, 719 W. Sixth, 499-0600.*

SCHIZOPHRENIC BUT SOCIAL Sure, these cats have had some trouble nailing down a name and entity, but here we have it. 'Twas **De'or**; now it's **KISS!**, a retro dance party for all those who boogie, every Friday with the Crystal Princess herself on the spin, **DJ PJ Ragsworth**. No Cover if you're old enough to booze, hound. *Fridays, 9pm. The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. 9pm.* **www.myspace.com/deorparty**.

CAGED BIRDS SING Just in time to make all our holiday cares melt away, **Rob Faubion** and his lovely "ladies" bring back **La Cage**, drag nights voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitneys and Barbaras done up with ridiculous flair. Sundays are baaaaaaack. *Sun., Dec. 2, 9:30pm and 11:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

GET WINE-HOUSED Not rehab, no, no, no, but how about some red teeth and some good old-fashioned wine-tasting with some classy (gay) ladies? Join the Wino lezzies for some tasty libations, accompanying cheese, fruit, treats, and even some tips from **Robyn** (of the Wine Merchant). All the warmth you need on these cold, cold days. *Thu., Dec. 6, 7pm. Lo-Fi, Upstairs Nueva Onda.*





Grand Opening of
The Khabele Studio

The Way I See It: 3 Photographic Perspectives

December 1st, 8:00pm

701 W. 7th, on the corner of 7th and Rio Grande
with musical entertainment
by Govinda

Featuring an art show from three award-winning Texas photographers: Dan Winters, Bear Guerra and Jeff Wilson

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS It's been awhile since the Texas Shootout, and Roller Derby fans are chompin' at the bit for some reckless roller-skating mayhem. This one is an all-star bout featuring the Texas Rollergirls' Texecutioners battling the Duke City's Muñecas Muertas straight outta Albuquerque, N.M. Veering from the norm, this bout will take place Saturday night as opposed to the typical Sunday evening action. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30pm (doors). Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann. $15 ($12, advance; free, kids 12 & under).* **www.txrollergirls.com**.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Volleyball NCAA First Round: New Mexico State Vs. LSU: *Fri., Nov. 30, 4:30pm*. UT Vs. Texas State: *Fri., Nov. 30, 6:30pm.* NCAA Second Round: Teams TBD: *Sat., Dec. 1, 6:30pm. Gregory Gymnasium, 2101 Speedway.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. UT-Arlington: *Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm.* Vs. Sam Houston St.: *Sun., Dec. 2, 2pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. North Texas: *Wed., Dec. 5, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center.* **Men's and Women's Swimming** Texas Invitational: *Thu.-Sat, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, all day. Jamail Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr.* **www.texassports.com**.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Louisiana College: *Sat., Dec. 1, 3pm.* Vs. Mississippi College: *Mon., Dec. 3, 7:30pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Louisiana College: *Sat., Dec. 1, 1pm.* Vs. Mississippi College: *Mon., Dec. 3, 5:30pm.* **athletics.concordia.edu**.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Colorado College: *Fri., Nov. 30, 6pm.* Vs. Austin College: *Sat., Dec. 1, 6pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. Colorado College: *Fri., Nov. 30, 8pm.* Vs. Austin College: *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm.* **southwesternpirates.cstv.com**.

AUSTIN WRANGLERS OPEN TRYOUTS If you think you can rumble with the big boys, here's your chance to prove it. The Wranglers dropped from the Arena Football League to the lower-ranking af2 over the off-season, thereby possibly improving the chances of hopeful footballers making the team from one of these open tryouts. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7am (registration), 8am-3pm (open tryouts). Yellow Jacket Stadium, 1156 Hargrave.* **www.austinwranglers.com**.

AUSTIN ICE BATS The 3-13 Bats continue to battle through a rough 2007-08 season. Maybe some home cooking will bring 'em a win or two. Vs. Corpus Christi: *Fri., Nov. 30, 7:35pm.* Vs. Rio Grande Valley: *Sat., Dec. 1, 7:35pm. Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 927-7825. $9-35.* **www.icebats.com**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

ULTIMATE FRISBEE WINTER LEAGUE is forming now and will be topped out at 204 players. The sport "combines elements of soccer, football, and basketball in a fast-paced game, played with a frisbee, where everyone is a quarterback and everyone is a receiver." Newbies are welcome. Sign up now. *Sundays, Dec. 9-Feb. 3, 1-4pm. East Communities Branch YMCA, 5315 Ed Bluestein Blvd. $38.50 per person.* **www.austinwinterleague.com**.

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE will include lots of new and used golf equipment, plus a putting contest, closest-to-the-pin contest, and free 30-minute golf lessons. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8am. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.*

MID AMERICAN YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT MAYB has been organizing tourneys since 1993 and currently hosts them in 22 states across the country. They focus on practice and participation with the teams divided up by grade level. See website for more. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2. Crockett High School, 5601 Manchaca. $5, $3 kids between 6-12, kids 6 and under free.* **www.mayb.com**.

KICKBOXING WORKSHOP Kickboxing is a great way to get in shape and defend yourself from the creeps inhabiting this world. *Mondays, 7-8pm. Premier Martial Arts-Austin, 3601 W. William Cannon #50, 447-5425. Free.* **www.pmaschools.com/austin1/index.cfm?page=14**.

COLLEGE COACHES SOCCER CAMP FOR BOYS AND GIRLS will be split into two categories for the boys and the girls, ages 11-14 and 15-18. Participants will receive quality training with a chance to showcase their skills in front of big-time college coaches. The boys camp will be taught by coaches from the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and others; the girls will learn from coaches from Texas State, Clemson, and more. E-mail **greg.sheen@hotmail.com** to reserve your child's spot. Call 899-1049 to pay using a credit card. *Mon.-Wed., Dec. 3-5. Westcreek Soccer Complex, 6001 Westcreek Dr. $75.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

BROWN SANTA 5K This hilly and challenging 5K will benefit the **Travis County Sheriff's Brown Santa** program. Drag along the kids for the Kids' K. *Sun., Dec. 2, 8:15am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker. 512/423-2291.* **www.tcsheriff.org/brownsanta5k**.

RUN FOR THE RIDGE 5K AND KIDS FUN RUN Bring out the family for this event benefiting **Vista Ridge Project Graduation** for 2008. *Sat., Dec. 1, 9am. Vista Ridge High School, 200 S. Vista Ridge Parkway, Cedar Park, 512/415-8462.*

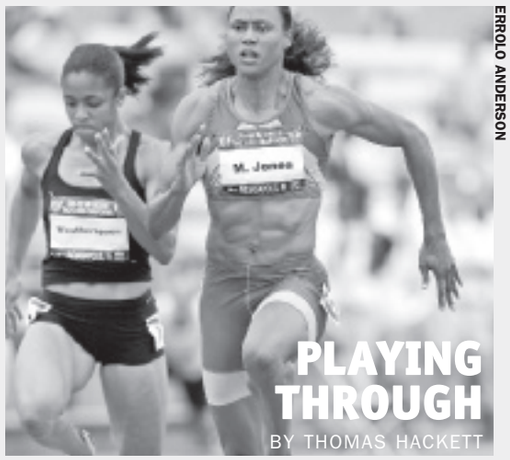
REINDEER RUN Participate in the 5K fun run or the brand-new Fisher-Price Kids K. Santa gets the race started, and costumes are encouraged. Bring a toy for the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots** program. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8am. Life Time Fitness North Austin, 13725 RM 620, 219-0909.* **www.lifetimefitness.com/events/reindeer-run**.

ARC DECKER CHALLENGE 20K, TWO-PERSON RELAY, & 40K Three races on one course in one day at one location all presented by **Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst**. See website for more details. *Sun., Dec. 2, 8am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 512/423-2291.* **www.decker.austinrunners.org**.

Soccer WATCH

It's "wait until next year" for the **UT Longhorns**, who crashed out of the NCAAs with a 4-0 drubbing at Florida State on Friday. The Horns were out-shot by a 29-5 margin, capping a postseason in which they were out-shot in all six games, including a 110-38 margin in the last four. Worth noting, of course, that they did win the first five of those games and that statistics are largely meaningless, but still … after finding at least two dynamic strikers in this year's freshman class, to complement senior **Kelsey Carpenter** (thanks for a great four years), coach Petrucelli will be looking for improvement in the center third of the field in 2008.

There'll always be an England … but not at next summer's **European Championships**. They came into the last day of qualifying needing only a home draw to advance against a team with nothing to play for. So they gave up two early goals on two defensive howlers, then wasted a dramatic comeback, inspired by halftime sub **David Beckham**, and lost 3-2. How bad is that? The team they lost out to, Russia, only made it by virtue of a 1-0 squeaker over Andorra. … English club soccer, on the other hand, is alive and well: All four English entries had good days on the next-to-last day of **Champions League** group play; three are through to the final 16; Liverpool looks likely to join them, after their second straight lopsided win. Final games: Dec. 11-12. – *Nick Barbaro*



ERROLO ANDERSON

PLAYING THROUGH

BY THOMAS HACKETT

David Halberstam once wrote that in his 40-odd-year career as a reporter, nobody had ever been "so gratuitously rude" to him as **Joe DiMaggio**. When I read that, I thought: Apparently Halberstam never met **Marion Jones**.

In 1999, I was assigned to write a profile on Jones for *The New York Times Magazine*. I was a fan of track and field and of Jones and flew down to Raleigh, N.C., where she trained with coach **Trevor Graham**, happy to write a puff piece in anticipation of the upcoming Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Jones was smart, attractive, engaging, and brimming with talent. What could I possibly say that would be negative?

A lot, it turns out.

Last month, after pleading guilty to lying to federal investigators about taking performance-enhancing drugs, Jones, who now lives in Austin with sprinter **Obadele Thompson**, had to return her five Olympic medals from the 2000 Sydney Olympics (three of them gold). Annulling her records, track's governing body also demanded last week that she return over $700,000 in prize money. In January she'll likely be sentenced to hard time in prison. In the coming weeks, she is scheduled to testify against her former coach Graham in the Balco steroid case, a case which has also finally laid the mighty **Barry Bonds** low.

Eight years ago, steroids never crossed my mind. That must sound terribly naive, but sports fans are naturally trusting. We invest immense faith in athletes. We know they're not perfect. We accept their egoism. We forgive their failures. We keep believing in the historically hapless, in teams like the Chicago Cubs – or, anyway, we admire those who do.

The one thing we cannot tolerate in sports is fraudulence. In other parts of our lives we're used to BS. We even accept it as a condition of living. People get breaks they don't deserve. They learn to posture and pretend. It's not that they go through life lying and cheating (though some do); it's that we all, like it or not, live in a world where "image is everything," as **Andre Agassi** used to say.

Agassi would repudiate the ad line for Canon. He knew that in sports, image is ultimately nothing. In the end, no matter how famous, the athlete still has to do something real, and nobody or nothing can do it for him. Otherwise, sports are just like everything else, an elaborate con. In which case, why bother?

In 1999, after I met Jones, I wasn't thinking any of these thoughts. I just knew that she was a grade-A jerk. Fifteen minutes into a benign interview, she cut off the conversation. A guy from Nike, sent from Oregon to babysit their golden girl, reamed me out for trying to get a few more minutes with her. Her husband at the time – a surly shot-putter who would end up crying like a little girl when he was later busted for steroids – wouldn't even shake my hand.

Only later, only after the rumors and allegations began to emerge, did the obnoxiousness start to make sense. Knowing full well that she was full of shit, Jones and her handlers just didn't want anyone getting close enough to get a whiff of it.

Monday 03

AUSTIN AFRICA NETWORK MONTHLY MEETING The focus this week is on **AIDS Orphans in Kenya**, with a talk from Anna Toews and Kelly Mahan about the work of the **Providence Home** organization in providing education and care for Kenya's orphaned children. *7pm. Dominican Joe, 515 S. Congress, 977-8254. Free.*

POKER TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER This two-day event features an array of impressive prizes (we're talking Xbox 360s, flat-screen televisions, and Las Vegas vacations, here), and all proceeds benefit Austin's homeless veterans and children. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 3-4, 6 & 9pm. Bikinis Bar & Grill, 6901 N. I-35, 454-2247. $35 buy-in.* **screenpeace@yahoo.com**, **www.bikinissportsbarandgrill.com**.

REEL WOMEN'S BIG HOLIDAY PARTY An evening of cocktails and dancing for entertainment-industry folks who wanna hang out under the mistletoe with others in the biz. The raffle and silent auction will benefit Reel Women's educational and community outreach programs, and free raffle tickets go to anyone who brings new or gently used socks, gloves, hats, and blankets to keep Austinites in need warm this winter. *7-11pm. Hi-Lo, 301 W. Sixth, 971-1663. $5.* **www.reelwomen.org**.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Dougherty Arts Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 7:15pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Cave, **Ume** *Emo's*
RRIICCEE *Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz*

Tuesday 04

CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD features performances from the Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Beth Shalom, Congregation Shir Ami, and Austin Jewish Academy choirs, plus a Chanukah sing-along and a Dreidel Shmeidle challenge led by Cantor Robbi Sherwin. Latkes and other treats will be available as well. Be sure to bring an unwrapped gift for donation to **Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services** of the Austin State Hospital. *5-7pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. Free.* **www.shalomaustin.org/chanukah**.

ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES presents Mayor Pro Tem **Betty Dunkerley**, TIP Strategies' **Jon Roberts**, and Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project' **Jim Walker**, who will discuss **Top Talent, Big Business: Encouraging & Retaining a Competitive Edge**. *7:30-9am. Chez Zee American Bistro, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666. $25 ($20, Leadership Austin members).* **www.leadershipaustin.org/engage**.

HEALTH PLANS FOR MEDICARE ENROLLEES Call to reserve your seat at this free luncheon presented by Sterling Health Plans. *10am. Golden Corral, 9710 N. Lamar, 866/445-9568. Free.*

LEGALLINE This free, once-a-month hotline is available today for answering any legal questions you may have. *First Tuesdays. 472-8303.*

SIERRA CLUB MEETING As the former president of the San Antonio-based Rock Art Foundation, current 3rd Court of Appeals Chief Justice **Ken Law** has a lot to say about rock art. And so he will, with tonight's presentation: **Lower Pecos Rock Art**. *7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Free.* **www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin**.

TAI CHI WITH GUY FORSYTH *Tuesdays, 1-3pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH Mental Health America sponsors this symposium featuring experts in mental health and genome research from around the state. *9:30am. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. Free.*

POKER TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 9:45pm*
The Wind of the Night *@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Todd Rundgren *Antone's*

Wednesday 05

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETING *6:45-9pm. Austin State School, 2203 W. 35th, 974-7630.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central_west_austin.htm**.

HAMPTON OPEN MIC For musicians, writers, artists, filmmakers, and storytellers of all ages (bring age-appropriate material). *First Wednesdays, 7-8pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON with special guest Sen. Kirk Watson. Proceeds benefit the **Hispanic Scholarship Consortium**. *11am-1pm. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 450-5969.* **events@hispanicscholar.org**.

LEARN ARABIC This weekly drop-in class offers an introduction to both written and spoken Arabic. Call to secure your seat (you need not commit to all sessions to register). *Wednesdays, 6-8pm. Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7500. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB City Council Member **Mike Martinez** presents **Is Now the Time for Single-Member Districts?** *7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. $15 (members/first-time guests).* **www.mbcaustin.org**.

TEXAS NORML MEETING *First Wednesdays, 8pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. Free.* **www.texasnorml.org**.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS feature free yoga every week. E-mail to RSVP. *Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Lululemon Athletica Showroom, 3700 Kerbey Ln. Free.* **austin-community@lululemon.com**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Last Call for Tacos *@ Maria's Taco Xpress, 6:30pm*
Switchblade Sisters *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*
The Public Enemy *@ Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm*
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 4pm*
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Blank Tapes, **the Skeletons** *Hole in the Wall*
Marcus Rubio *The Parlor*
Peter Case *Cactus Cafe*

Thursday 06

CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESS OWNERS A workshop for business owners who have some knowledge of business management and are looking to refine their practices. *6-9pm. International Center of Austin, 201 E. Second, 476-7502.*

GAHCC POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST Join the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Flynn Negueira's presentation **Make Any Networking Event More Effective & More Successful for Your Business**. *7-9am. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 462-4305. $15 ($10, members).* **rjaimez@gahcc.org**.

GRETCHEN PHILLIPS & JAY BYRD present myriad perspectives this evening on: religion and faith. Prepare to have your mind blown! Or at least to be tickled pink. *8pm. Flipnotics Coffeespace, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646.*

HOLIDAY WELLNESS: HAVE YOUR TURKEY & EAT IT TOO! Call ahead or register at the concierge desk for this nutrition tour conducted by dietitian Hannah Wong. *11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. $5.*

SAINT GERMAIN SPEAKS *First & third Thursdays, 7:30pm; second & fourth Saturdays, 1:30pm. Healing Light Center, 7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0559. $5 donation.* **www.sashawhite.com**.

TELLING THE TRUTH: DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE & HOW TO TELL YOUR STORIES This ongoing writing-workshop series features a new guest speaker each month. Tonight: Barnes & Noble's Jo Virgil presents **Unburying the Best Stories**. *7-8:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

SPANGLISH 101 (See Thursday 11/29.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Murder of Fred Hampton *@ MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm*
The Visitor *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*
The Whole Shootin' Match *@ Alamo Ritz, 4:30pm*
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Café Tacuba *La Zona Rosa*
U.S.S.A. *Emo's*
Silver Pines *Scoot Inn & Beer Garden*
Rachel Loy & Brian Keane's Farewell Show *Continental Club*

Ongoing Events

PLANNING A HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTY? You should ask the SIMS Foundation for a little **Office Tune-Up** this year. They'll hook you up with a private concert from some great local bands, and in the meantime you'll be contributing to SIMS' continuing efforts to provide health and mental-wellness services to Austin's uninsured musicians. **www.simsfoundation.org**.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION: CALL FOR ENTRIES Open to children and adults, amateur and professional, this Texas Culinary Academy competition will judge entries based on overall appearance, creativity, difficulty, execution, and consistency of theme. Bring your gingerbread house to the Texas Culinary Academy *Fri., Dec. 7, 8am-5pm.* Winners will be announced at the TCA open house the next day.

FREE COUNSELING FOR VETERANS The Samaritan Counseling Center now offers free counseling services to those who've served in Afghanistan or Iraq, as well as to the parents, children, siblings, spouses, and partners of servicemen and women. Call or e-mail for details. *Samaritan Counseling Center, 5425-A Burnet Rd., 451-7337.* **hopeforheroes@samaritan-center.org**, **www.samaritan-center.org**.

NOTES OF HOPE aims to give 1,000 encouraging cards to bereaved military families, friends, and veterans. If you'd like to contribute a letter, poem, or other message, see **www.notesofhope.us** for details. *Deadline: Dec. 5. 968-2644.*

SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE This 1940s-era Christmas show with a 300-member cast and a 100-voice choir is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. *Fri.-Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 2 & Dec. 7-9. Bannockburn Baptist Church, 7100 Brodie, 892-2703.* **www.bbcfamily.com**.

THIS WEEK ONLY

COATS FOR KIDS Outfit a child in need this winter with a new or gently used coat; you may drop coats off at any area Jack Brown cleaners. *Through Dec. 5. 467-8982 x231.* **www.jlaustin.org/coats**, **www.jackbrowncleaners.com/locations.htm**.

GEM CAPERS More than 35 vendors showcase their gems and minerals this weekend. You'll find everything from jewelry and beads to lapidary equipment and fossils, plus there will be plenty of door prizes, educational displays, demos, and activies like the Gem Mine, Wheel of Fortune, and Illumination Station. There will be plenty of kids activities all weekend, plus a visit from **Dinosaur Man** on Friday for Youth Education Day. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. $1-5 (free, kids 5 & under; 50 cents, ages 6-12).* **www.gemcapers.com**.

LINUS BOLEY DONATION DRIVE Thirteen-year-old Linus Boley is collecting items at O. Henry Middle to be sent as care packages to our troops overseas. Requested items include travel-sized body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, eye drops, feminine products, and baby wipes as well as microwave popcorn, power bars, koozies, calling cards, CDs, and DVDs. *Deadline: Dec. 7. O. Henry Middle School, 2610 W. 10th, 414-3229.*

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL AWARDS Who do you think deserves recognition for keeping Austin beautiful? Be sure to make your nomination soon – KAB Award winners will be honored at the annual awards luncheon in February, but the nomination deadline is almost here: *Dec. 7.* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.







Don't Dress for Dinner

Austin Playhouse, through Dec. 23 Running Time: 2 hrs



You may think of adultery as a serious matter. This is understandable. I myself am inclined to agree. French playwright Marc Camoletti, however, has a decidedly different take on the matter. His *Don't Dress for Dinner* looks at the considerably lighter side of an English couple's attempts at infidelity.

Dinner is a British adaptation of the original French work and was a West End sensation. While the characters are predominantly English, the setting and plot stay French. Bernard, upper class and middle-aged, is stuck in a Madonna-and-the-Whore/have-your-cake-and-eat-it-too conundrum. He wants to keep his wife, Jacqueline, and his mistress, Parisian socialite Suzanne. Rather than seeing this as a moral dilemma, Bernard tackles it as a logistical problem. If he can get his wife out of the house for the weekend, create an alibi with his best friend, Robert, invite the mistress over …

Unfortunately, he forgets to calculate into the equation that Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers. Funny how he should miss that. With his wife staying at home under false pretenses to rendezvous with her lover, Bernard decides to circumvent the truth to get Suzanne safely under his roof rather than abort the mission: Suzanne will moonlight as Robert's mistress. Needless to say, this doesn't go over well with Jacqueline.

Desperate to gain "satisfaction," *Dinner*'s characters lie and double-lie and erase previous lies in order to stay on top of the who's-on-first layers of false relationships. Throw in a ditzy cook and her jealous husband, and the tense confusion among characters grows even greater. Like a guitar string being wound tighter and tighter, *Dinner*'s plot gets increasingly harebrained as characters reach for convenient lies instead of the twisted truth.

This mounting tension is where *Dinner* really delivers, as Austin Playhouse Artistic Director Don Toner has put together a cast plenty capable of the poise and exaggerated emotions necessary for a farce. Janet Hurley Kimlicko and David Stahl are wonderful as the adulterous couple bent on keeping both lovers and spouses in the fold. Hurley Kimlicko's wicked evil eyes and facial contortions are particularly delightful, and Ben Wolfe is a riot in his cameo as jealous husband George. Actually, all of the actors are eminently likable in their roles. Toner probably could have made the production snootier or cattier, but the show remains warm, bubbly, and playful throughout and contains its share of good old belly laughs.

While the release at the end of *Dinner* doesn't have as much of a splash as expected, it stays with the loose and entertaining tone of the show. *Dinner* revels in its shenanigans and cover-ups, its cartoonish characters, and its charm to win over the audience. So check your moral baggage at the door, grab a glass of Burgundy, and enjoy the farcical fun of *Don't Dress for Dinner*. – *Avimaan Syam*

Theatre

OPENING

THE DIONYSIUM OMG, the Dionysium changes dates and venues! It's still at the Alamo, of course, but now Downtown. And on the first *Wednesday* of every month. And *this* time, L.B. Deyo and Buzz Moran present a debate of Resolved: Prohibition Should Be Reinstated. And, in keeping ever so Dionystically with that theme, Dewar's best will flow copiously and totally *gratis* – we shit you not, friend – the whole night long, while diverse intellectual entertainment unfolds and maestro Graham Reynolds makes the keyboards conform to his musical will. *Wed., Dec. 5, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. $8.* **www.dionysium.com**

PLAID TIDINGS is Stuart Ross' holiday-themed sequel to the popular *Forever Plaid*, in which the male counterparts of Zach's Beehive Girls sing and dance their way through pop music standards in happy-footed, nostalgia-mining harmony. Tributes to the Rockettes, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Chipmunks, Harry Belafonte, and more are performed by the fantastic sweater-vested cast as Austin Haller tickles the yuletide ivories. Directed by Dave "Triple Threat" Steakley, with musical direction by Allen Robertson. *Nov. 29-Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

THE NEOVAGINA MONOLOGUES Professor Sandy Stone, internationally renowned scholar and founder of UT's ACTLab, performs her series of monologues "inspired by Eve Ensler and Spalding Grey" exploring, among other things, postmodernism and the transgender experience. With an original score by Chad Salvata. (See p.36 for more.) *Nov. 29-Dec. 2. Thu.-Sun., 8pm.* (Performance workshop: *Sat., Dec. 1, 1-3pm.*) *The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30 ($20, workshop).* **www.vortexrep.org**.

THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING) Hyde Park Theatre's Ken Webster recently won the Austin Critics' Table award for Outstanding Lead Acting for his performance of this Will Eno monologue masterpiece. We don't know whether to congratulate Webster on his triumph or the ACT on their good judgment, but, yeah, we heartily concur and recommend this encore performance of the show to anyone who likes intimate and darkly comedic work well done. *Nov. 29-Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. $17 ($15, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you can, Thursdays).* **www.hydeparktheatre.com**.

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL! This offering, which may just be some sort of musical, is presented by your kinetically irrepressible friends at Yellow Tape Construction Company, as Jonathon Morgan directs a stage-stretching cast in a story about hope, love, togetherness, and the undeniable, supremely fantastic Spirit of Christmas. Tongue, we reckon, firmly in cheek. Choreographed by Amanda Butterfield and scored by the *other* Tim Doyle. Ticket discounts are available if you engage in some costumed, yuletide antics. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm, Nov. 29-Dec. 22. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. $15-30.* **www.yellowtape.org**.

WHEN MORE PIGS FLY is a musical revue featuring more than 120 costumes in 90 minutes and starring some of Austin's favorite performers. *Nov. 29-Jan. 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2788. $33 ($25, in advance).* **www.naughtyaustin.com**.

XMAS UNWRAPPED: A HOLIDAY BURLESQUE Featuring the Jingle Belles from Shrewd Productions: Kristen Bennett, Monika Bustamante, Stacy Christie, Alisha Golding, Shannon Grounds, Cassie Guard, T. Lynn Mikeska, Marisa Pisano, and Sarah Skelton, with Troy Miller as your emcee, directed by Shannon Grounds and Jason Hays. Hot-cha-cha and ho-ho-ho, for adults only. *Nov. 30-Dec. 15. Thu.-Sat., 10pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. $15-30.* **www.hydeparktheatre.com**.

26 X TEN: A TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL A fine collection, as directed by the students of St. Edward's University. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 3-4, 5 & 8pm. Mary Moody Northen Theatre at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8484. Free.*

VIRGINIA A funny and heart-cockles-warming play, from your friends at a chick & a dude productions, based on the old "Yes, Viginia" Santa Claus letter. Directed by Melissa Livingston, written by Livingston and Shanon Weaver. *Dec. 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 921-4264. $14 ($12, students, seniors, ACoT).* **www.hydeparktheatre.com**.

KITTY KITTY BANG BANG Austin's bodacious Kitties celebrate the Eighties by taking off their leg warmers (and most of the rest of their clothes) and shaking what they've got to the beat of, oh, "Eye of the Tiger," "Total Eclipse of the Heart," and other such antediluvian fare, with hot new dances and sizzling new design. *Thu., Dec. 6, 9pm. Mohawk, 912 Red River, 482-8404.* **www.texaskitties.com**.

THE METHOD GUN Here's a workshop production of what those boundary-breaking Rude Mechanicals are gearing up for a formal run of sometime next year: An exploration of the life and tragic death of theatre guru Stella Burden, creator of an acting technique so dangerous that it may have been what killed her. Written by Kirk Lynn, directed by Shawn Sides, pretty goddamn scary. Audience Q&A with the creators following each performance. *Dec. 6-15. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. $10-25 (pay what you can, Thursdays).* **www.rudemechs.com**.

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD Shakespeare's greatest tragedy (ah, that would be *Hamlet*) was turned inside out by the brilliant Tom Stoppard for this wild existential ride, here a vehicle for production by those daring young thespians of City Theatre. *Dec. 6-23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D. $15-20 ($12, students; $10, Thursdays).*

CLOSING

THE MISER Molière's classic farce about a greedy, greedy man has been newly translated by David Chambers and now gets a Different Stages production under the direction of Karen Sneed. Featuring Norman Blumensaadt as the eponymous geltmonger. (See review p.82.) *Through Dec. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm.* NB: *No show on Thu., Nov. 22. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. $15-30.* **www.main.org/diffstages**.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE The award-winning Bernadette Nason is dazzling in Willy Russell's one-woman comedy, directed by Michael Stuart for Austin Playhouse. *Through Dec. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. $20 ($17, AP members and guests; $10, students).* **www.austinplayhouse.com**.

LA PUTAIN AVEC LES FLEURS The "junk melodrama" from the RoHo Theatre Company returns – again! – with new twists and tricks and its usual complement of live music (the avant-garde band Bric-a-Brac), dance, puppets, dell arte, and that "big French bear," to relate the tale of a clown with an existential crisis. Directed by Rocky Hopson. *Thu.-Sat., Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 8pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 314-5002. $10.* **www.laputain.com**.

ONGOING

RHINOCEROS Eugene Ionesco's absurd classic gets a sprightly revival by St. Ed's Transit Theatre Troupe, directed by Maria Mealla. *Thu.-Fri., Nov. 29-30, 5pm; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 7-8, 4pm.* Extra show: *Thu., Dec. 6, 5pm. Sorin Hall Building, St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress. Donations accepted.*

ROMEO AND JULIET Shakespeare's classic love story gets a go from the Velvet Rut Theatre under the direction of Japhy Fernandes. *Nov. 29-Dec. 9. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 1612 E. Seventh. Pay what you can.*

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER Marc Camoletti's French farce of mistaken identities, illicit love affairs, and haute cuisine is here adapted English-wise by Robin Hawdon, with a fine cast (David Stahl! Ben Wolfe! Andrea Osborne! Others!) directed by Don Toner for your theatrical comedy pleasure. (See review above.) *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm.* NB: Extra show: *Sat., Dec. 15, 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. $24-28 (half price for students).* **www.austinplayhouse.com**.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Of course someone's doing the Dickens for this coming season, and here it's the Palace in Georgetown with Alan Menken's Broadwayed musical version. Scrooge in New York City? Catchy songs and lots of dance numbers? Yes, and who among us would suggest it's all a bunch of humbug? *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. $20 ($18, seniors; $8, students).* **www.thegeorgetownpalace.org**.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris' ascerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with **Martin Burke** bringing his sharp wit and timing to the role of Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy's elf. Also featuring the excellent **Meredith McCall** and pianist **Jason Connor**, this is the sort of comedy that'll turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by Dave "What the hell, I'll go ahead and open *three* shows at once!" Steakley. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $33-43 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH's annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-la-ing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Grinch's permafrost heart. It's the Austin yuletide tradition that gets you dancing in the aisles, directed by Dave "Hardworkin'" Steakley. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

DINNER THEATRE

BUBBA & BABE'S BACKWOODS WEDDING is brought to you by the people responsible for **Esther's Follies**, and if you need a stronger recommendation than that, you haven't been in this town long enough, podner. Here's a dinner like no other, at which a hilarious Texas-tinted, low-rent adventure (rehearsal dinner, bachelor and bachelorette parties, the wedding itself) unfolds while you dine on five courses of gourmet comfort food. The performers are culled from the Follies' finest, together with new faces and even the working waitstaff. Live comedy, tasty vittles, and live music presided over by Esther's own Doug Ewart. Recommended. *Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. $50 ($95 per couple).* **www.patsyscowgirlcafe.com**.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FRONTERAFEST APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE Get on the schedule before all the slots are taken, thespian. See the Hyde Park Theatre website for downloadable applications for the 2008 FronteraFest Fringe Festival. **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.

SANDY STONE: PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP The creator of *The Neovagina Monologues* shows you how to transform your personal, autobiographical stories into performance works. (See "The Neovagina Monologues," p.36, for more.) *Sat., Dec. 1, 1-3pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $20.* **www.sandystone.com**.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. **www.capcitycomedy.com**.

Mike Birbiglia Pssst! Hey, it's a seekrit show from this rising comedy star who appears suddenly, ninjalike, on the Cap City stage even though he lives in NYC. And then he's gone: one night only! *Mon., Dec. 3, 8pm*.

John Evans For 40 weeks out of the year, this man's a touring *maniac*, hitting comedy clubs and festivals across the nation with his Big Stick of Funny. This gig's part of that multipartite tour, opened for by Austin's own **John Ramsey**. *Dec. 4-8. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Robert Hawkins The man from *Titus*? The man with more tour dates and TV appearances (Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central, on and on) than you could write on a hundred cocktail napkins? Yes, *him*, flying in from the Hawknest – and, boy, are his arms between his hands and his shoulders – for a week of hilarity, with Austin's own **Trey Galyon** opening. *Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Open Mic Comedy Seasoned pros and up-and-comers knock themselves out to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. *Sundays, 8pm. $2 (free, college students).*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. **www.coldtowne.com**.

Now This Is Improv! Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, weave stories that are equal parts poignant and absurd, and this week they've got the incredible **McNichol & May** to accompany them, so you *know* it's gonna be a good show. *Thursdays, 8pm*. **The Cage Match** returns, with two improv troupes wreaking comedy havoc until one emerges, possibly bloodied, definitely unbowed, the victor. *Thursdays, 10pm*. **Lovey & Lovey** Holy flaming Buddha! **Michael Jastroch** and **Tami Nelson** onstage as a sort of modern Nick & Nora Charles? Pass the gin and catch us as we swoon. *Friday, 8pm*. ***That Other Paper* presents ... Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. *Fridays, 10pm*. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Saturdays, 8pm*. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it. *Saturdays, 10pm*.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. **www.esthersfollies.com**.

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: a mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. *Thursdays, 9:30pm. $9.95.*

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional $5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. **www.hideouttheatre.com**.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's Threefer Madness time, with **Midnight Society**, **Starter Kit**, and **Improv For Evil**. *8pm. $10*. Then you've got a Double Barrel waiting for you, featuring the **Knuckleball Now** and **Get Up!**. *10pm. $10*.

Saturday: Beam us home, Scotty, here's the return of **Start Trekkin'**! Every week a different captain, a different crew, a different narrative where no improvisers have gone before. Hear that spinning sound? That's Gene Roddenberry, gravewise, as on a warp-drive rotisserie. Recommended. *8pm. $10*. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. $10*.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. **www.thevelveetaroom.com**.

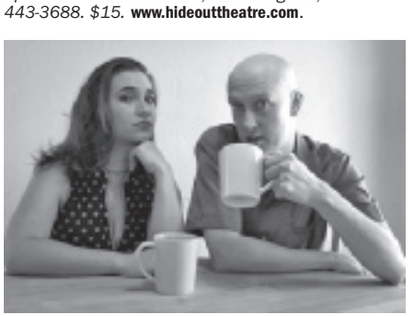
Final Spite Club of the season! John Rabon and Matt Bearden host three rounds of comedian-vs.-comedian battle: trivia, insults, and free-style. Why, it's a veritable – *snarky yuk-fest*! For this final week, they've got some pretty heavy contenders: **Jesus** vs. **Satan**. Bwa! Our money's on the Morningstar. *Thu., Nov. 29, 9pm. $5.*

Eric Krug Fresh outta the military and ready to open up his big comedy guns on your insurgent ass, here comes the man with the surname like a mid-60s Marvel Comics monster – Krug! The Creature From Beyond Time! – with **Carey Moore** and **Kerri Lendo** opening. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! *Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. $5.*

SLOW CHILDREN CROSSING is a hella hot sketch troupe from Los Angeles, stopping Downtown for a night of chicanery on their current tour. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. $15.* **www.hideouttheatre.com**.



Genius improvisers Shana Merlin and Shannon McCormick – aka Get Up! – rock the Hideout this Friday.

Dance

BALLET EAST DANCE COMPANY: THE SAMENESS OF CHANGE BE presents this work as a reminder and restoration of modern dance's traditional feel, look, and flavor. Guest choreographer Regina Larkin is joined by Melissa Villarreal, Danny Herman, Sharon Marroquin, Gina Patterson, Amberlee Cantrell, Elizabeth Palmer, and Ananda Moss for works that hope to bridge a "dance generation gap," linking young dancers with their modern dance predecessors. *Nov. 29-Dec. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 474-TIXS. $10 ($6, seniors, children).* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Ballet Austin brings its 45th production of this seasonal classic to the grand old dame of Austin theatres, this time with added snow! Stephen Mills' variation on the original includes the fun and the fantastic, and has pleased audiences for years. *Through Dec. 23. 7:30pm: Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22. 2:30pm: Dec. 2, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 866/4-GETTIX. $17.50-65.* **www.austintheatrealliance.org**.

1,001 NIGHTS

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Celebrate Christmas, Arabic style, courtesy of Zein's Dance Studio and WMD Productions. The seventh annual bazaar features Arabic music, discount belly-dance lessons, and loads of treasures from Middle Eastern markets. Shows featuring members of Bint El Balad Ensemble and visiting dancers take place twice daily. *Through Dec. 23. Sundays, 11am-6pm (performances 2 & 4pm). Zein's Dance Studio, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. Free admission.* **www.wmdproductions.com**.

TWO LEFT FEET

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary.* **www.dancein.org**.

CONTEMPORARY CLOGGERS: APPALACHIAN CLOG DANCING The Contemporary Cloggers offer beginners' classes in this American folk dance form that looks like a cross between Irish, tap, and square dancing. No partner needed. *Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. 7402 Brodie. 292-1030.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188.* **www.twylabellydance.com**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. *512/750-7037. $13 per class; $66 for six classes.* **www.desertpassion.com**.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 989-3939.* **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

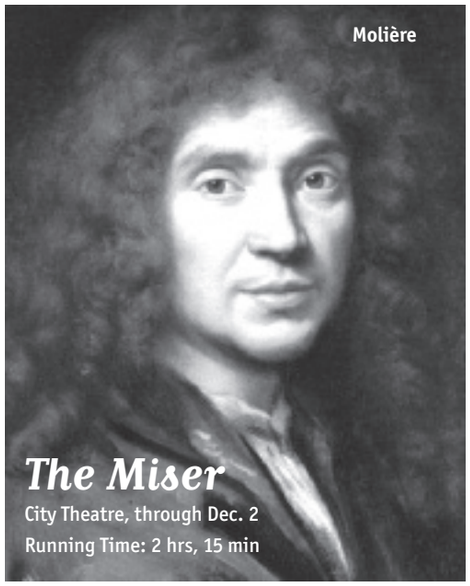












With appropriate vocal accompaniment, from between two French doors banked by classical columns, items of clothing, both male and female, fly onto the stage. A shirt, boots, a dress. Shortly afterward, a man and a woman enter, clothed only in their underwear, and proceed to accoutre themselves accordingly.

Welcome to the world of Molière, the man considered the master of comedy in the 17th century. Well, perhaps not the world of Molière but at least the world of this Different Stages production of his play *The Miser*. While the possibility exists that Molière intended his play to begin this way, most likely that scene is an addition made in this new translation by David Chambers or perhaps suggested by director Karen Sneed. In any case, it's an entirely appropriate addition for this story about the miser Harpagon, who values money above all else. He wants his son, Cleante, to marry a rich dowager; he wants his daughter, Elise, to marry someone who will take her without a dowry; he and himself wants to marry a woman named Marianne, who is young enough to be his daughter. Problem is, Cleante wants to marry Marianne, as well. Of course, that's only one of the entanglements in this play packed with entanglements and a deus ex machina to tie up the loose ends.

Molière wrote a stylized type of comedy, and Sneed gives every indication that she recognizes it as such. Using symmetrical staging that falls right in with the lines of Ann Marie Gordon's symmetrical set, Sneed has her actors utilize a broadly presentational style: standing in straight lines, turning toward the audience, gesturing freely, and declaiming loudly and clearly. If the actors delivered the majority of the text directly to the audience, it wouldn't surprise me. The style requires great energy and strong voices, and in many cases, the actors carry it off. Particularly impressive is Ousama Itani as Cleante. In the way he walks, stands, gestures, and speaks, he embodies the spoiled rich boy who will sacrifice everything for love. Similarly impressive is Anthony Cortino as Valere, Harpagon's manly man of a steward, who wants to marry Elise. Craig Kanne gets to have fun in two roles, both of which require him to adapt a broad physicalization, and in one of those roles he appears to be dressed like the mustachioed moneybags character from *Monopoly*. Simply by observing their dress, you almost always can tell exactly whom someone is, thanks to Kim Ngo's costume design.

While Sneed's vision for the play is clear, it's not always consistently presented. Many of the actors fall in and out of the style, and Molière's story doesn't work nearly as well without the support of broad physicalization and great energy. You can deliver material like this as if it's realistic or something verging on the realistic, but it plays against the text and simply doesn't work as well. That seemed to be happening often the night I attended, but the rest of the audience had considerably more fun than I did, laughing appropriately and often uproariously, especially in the second act. Hey, it's Molière. Few have done comedy better. – *Barry Pineo*

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. $5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed but couples welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO: THREE-DAY WORKSHOP Six months' worth of flamenco experience is a prerequisite for this class. Visit their website for more information. *Fri.-Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 2. 2801 W. 45th. 382-1366. $10 per class.* **www.estudioflamenco.com**.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary; see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails.* **www.tapestry.org**.

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky-tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. $8.* **www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers**.

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. $3.* **www.austinscandi.org**.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. $3.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. Build strength, gain flexibility, find health, and have fun! The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. $10 each class, discounts available.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.aifd.cc**.

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa**.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* **www.fouronthefloor.com**.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. $4 ($2, members).* **www.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL: HOLIDAY DANCE An open dance follows a showcase of work as performed by DI students who've spent a semester honing their craft. *Sun., Dec. 2., 6pm (performance), 7-8:30 (dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 32-DANCE. $15 ($10, in advance).* **www.dancein.org**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 14 issue is Monday, Dec. 3**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. **dance-classical@austinchronicle.com**.

Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com**.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

Classical Music

OPENING

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY OPERA: DIE FLEDERMAUS The Sarofim School of Fine Arts, Department of Music presents this Strauss opera, directed by Bruce Cain with David Utterback, pianist, accompanying. Give the opera a listen, and get to know the music and story before ALO trots out its "batty" version later this season. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theater, Southwestern University, 1001 E. University, Georgetown. 512/863-1379. Free.* **www.ssfa.southwestern.edu**.

SAINT CECILIA BAROQUE FESTIVAL This year's Baroque festival features Handel's popular *Messiah*, divided into three evenings of song, performed by three choirs, an international 30-member period instrument orchestra, and soloists. **Part I** St. Martin's Lutheran Church Choir, under the direction of Thomas Pavlechko, gets things under way. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7pm.* **Part II** First Presbyterian Church Chorale, under the direction of James A. Brown, takes up the reins; this section has that rather well-known "Hallelujah" in it. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm.* **Part III** Redeemer Presbyterian Church Choir, under the direction of George Dupere, brings the work to a rousing conclusion. *Sun., Dec. 2, 6pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 345-8866 x43. $15 ($12, seniors, students; $5, ages 11 and younger; free, as part of Sunday Evensong service).* **www.fpcaustin.org/news/music.html**.

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC This week: **Delaine Fedson, harp** This faculty recital features harpist Fedson, as well as Amy Levine Tsang, cello; Helen Ann Shanley, flute; and Jeffrey Jones Ragona, tenor, with works by Marcel Tournier, Andre Jolivet, John Lambert, Marcel Grandjany, and Marcel Samuel-Rousseau. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm. Jessen Auditorium. $10 ($5, students).* **Gamelan Ensemble** Gamelan, a music ensemble of Indonesian origin, is made up of a distinct set of drums, gongs, metallophones, bowed and plucked string instruments, and bamboo flutes, as well as human voices. This concert features Rasito Purwopangrawit. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. $10 ($5, students).* **UT Faculty Chamber Ensemble: A Baroque Christmas at the Blanton** The ensemble performs works by Corelli, Quantz, Bach, Telemann, Tartini, and Handel. *Sun., Dec. 2, 3pm. Blanton Museum, MLK & Congress.* **Wind Ensemble** Jerry Junkin directs the ensemble in works by Prangcharoen, Toch, Schwanter, and Vaughan Williams, featuring faculty tuba player, Charles Villarubia. *Mon., Dec. 3, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. $10 ($5, students). 471-5401.* **www.music.utexas.edu**.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY The Southwestern Music Department presents: **Merry TubaChristmas** Carols find an airing through a collection of tuba and euphonium players of all ages. And *if you play one of these glorious instruments, you are invited to join the performance*. Please bring your own instrument and music stand, and dress festively. *Sat., Dec. 1. 9:30am: registration (room 230, Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center, University Avenue); 9:30-10:30am, rehearsal. 1-1:45pm: performance. Outdoors on the Academic Mall, in front of the Lois Perkins Chapel, Southwestern University, Georgetown. Free (performers must pay a $5 registration fee and $12 for music books).* **Delaine Fedson, harp** Fedson performs Noel, a Classical Birthday Celebration, which includes works by solo and chamber works by Marcel Samuel-Rousseau and Benjamin Britten. She is joined by local musicians and vocalists, including Helen Ann Shanley, flute; Amy Levine Tsang, cello; Scott McNulty, organ: Dr. Eileen Meyer Russell, and tenor Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. *Mon., Dec. 3, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theater, Fine Arts Center. Free. 512/863-1379.* **www.ssfa.southwestern.edu**.

CONSPIRARE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: BIRDSONG Works for the holiday season, inspired by Maya Angelou's poem "I know why the caged bird sings" include Vivaldi's "Et Exultavit" and Faure's "Pie Jesu" and songs by Paul Read, Benjamin Britten, and others. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30pm. St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd., 476-5775. $10 ($5, students; free, ages 5 and younger).* **www.conspirare.org**.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: QUIXOTIC QUINCUNX Contemplative, exotic, funky, and virtuosic chamber music that features the viola includes works by Brahms, Turina, Stephen Paulus, and Austin's own Peter Stopschinski. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 2205 Moffet, 225-1758. $15 ($12 seniors, students).* **www.gsaustin.org/music/concerts.htm**.

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: THOMAS VILOTEAU The most recent winner of the Guitar Foundation of America's international competition, Frenchman Viloteau is yet another winner of this prestigious event to be presented by ACGS. *Sat., Dec. 1, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 300-2247. $40 ($15, seniors, students; free, ACGS members).* **www.austinclassicalguitar.org**.

AUSTIN HARMONY CHORUS AND THE AUSTIN CHORD RANGERS: OPEN ME FIRST The two choruses (male and female) and select quartets perform traditional and contemporary holiday music with a barbershop twist. Choruses and quartets combine for a grand finale that promises to delight and inspire. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, 3701 Slaughter, 477-SONG. $10 ($5, ages 11 and younger).* **www.chordrangers.org**.

AUSTIN SAENGERRUNDE DAMENCHOR: GERMAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC The Damenchor (women's choir), Maennerchor (men's choir), and Gemischtechor (mixed choirs) perform German holiday songs, to be followed by a sing-along of German Christmas carols. *Sun., Dec. 2, 2:30pm. Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto. 249-0263, 659-7822. Free.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY QUARTET The Austin Symphony announces the debut performance of the Austin Symphony Quartet, which ASO hopes develops into a regular chamber series at the soon-to-be-opened Long Center for the Performing Arts. Artists in the quartet include ASO Concertmaster Jessica Mathaes, principal second violinist Richard Kilmer, principal violist Bruce Williams and principal cellist Douglas Harvey. Works by Mozart, Chavez, and Schubert. *Sun., Dec. 2, 3pm. Smith Family Chapel, Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. $25.* **www.austinsymphony.org**.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY AND CHORUS AUSTIN: MESSIAH ASO Music Director Peter Bay leads a stellar company of voices in addition to the sumptuous symphony for Handel's most popular oratorio. Guest vocalists include Cara Johnston, soprano; Jami Rhodes, alto; Don Hill, tenor; David Small, bass; and the vocal forces of Chorus Austin. *Tue., Dec. 4, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. $15-35.* **www.austinsymphony.org**.

MCCALLUM ORCHESTRAS AND CHOIRS: WINTER CONCERT SERIES Two different programs by a pair of up-and-coming student groups. Tuesday's concert features works by Del Borgo, Handel, and Albrecht and Brownsey; Thursday's program includes works by Corelli, Vivaldi, and more (including Menotti's



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RM #2685/5/07_V2

'Matt Rebholz: The Golem'

Slugfest Gallery, through Dec. 16



It's fables about the dead that sometimes tell us the most about life. When faced with ghosts, vampires, zombies, or otherwise reanimated corpses – all creatures that exist without whatever essential spark of humanity animates us – we feel more keenly what it is to be truly alive. And we often see reflected in them our lives, forcing us to confront whether our own existence more closely resembles that of the living or the dead.

The golem, that soulless being from Jewish folklore shaped from mud to serve man's ends, has been known to act as such a mirror, and he does so once more in this series of images by Matt Rebholz. The graduate student in printmaking at UT-Austin took his inspiration from Gustav Meyrink's 1914 novel, *The Golem*, in which the man-made creature, in Rebholz's words, "wanders the streets of a corrupt and ruined city, blissfully unaware that he is a malfunctioning meat robot and not a man." He's given each of the 20 prints the number of a chapter, though he admits that as he was making the series, it diverged substantially from the events of the novel to become its own meditation on "consumption, ingestion, and expulsion."

Indeed, what one picks from the images at Slugfest is not so much a narrative as a depiction of humanity in which the dead may be living and the living dead. A woman sits naked on the floor of a living room, her back against the sofa, her legs splayed, a TV remote in one hand and a vacant expression on her face. Bathed in the glow from the TV, which casts unnervingly large black shadows across the wall, she might be a corpse, for all the life she displays. In the mob scene of *Chapter X*, a couple dozen figures march with upraised arms, as if agitated by something we cannot see. Some have angry faces with the bared teeth of vicious beasts, and most have glazed eyes, around which are dark circles and lids, just a step removed from the inky eye sockets of a skeleton. And skeletons appear again and again – one alongside a group of living people, one dressed as a doctor with a living man's arm around his shoulder, a skull hanging above a marionette perched on a horse. Death is a presence that seems at home among us, as if we've already left life behind. The golem, meanwhile, appears to be a pleasant-faced giant, more human than anyone else; in one print, he walks naked down a suburban street, one hand gingerly placed against the roof of a house that he towers over, and in another, he sits cowering under a freeway, seemingly terrified by the toy-sized trucks and sport utility vehicle that speed around and above him. He's an innocent trapped among a race of ravenous monsters, whose appetites, as depicted by Rebholz in a style somewhere between the art of ancient folk tales and contemporary cartoons, are grotesque. *Chapter VIII* shows us a man forcefully groping a nude woman, and the way his twisted fingers knead her exposed flesh is horrific.

There's horror in these images, and for the most part, they don't come from the creature without the soul. Rebholz has crafted a spooky parade of nightmare visions, impressively detailed black-and-white fever dreams in which we devour the world mindlessly. Where is that essential spark of humanity? Have we allowed it to die out? That's a thought more frightening than a thousand scary movies.

– *Robert Faires*

Amahl and the Night Visitors). The artists are running a silent auction to help pay for the chamber orchestra's 2009 trip to perform at Carnegie Hall! *Tue., Dec. 4; Thu., Dec. 6; 7pm. McCallum Fine Arts Academy Theatre, 5600 Sunshine, 420-0968. Free.*

CAROLING AT NOON AT ST. DAVID'S: UT BASSOON ENSEMBLE Take a lunchtime pause from the season's bustle with these presentations of music and Christmas caroling, followed by an optional lunch. Free parking in church garage at Eighth and Trinity. *Thu., Dec. 6, 12:05pm (lunch served at 12:30pm). St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free ($7, lunch).* **www.stdave.org**.

CONSPIRARE: CHRISTMAS AT THE CARILLON The cherished Austin holiday tradition continues as Craig Hella Johnson creates another unique holiday program that is equal parts sacred and secular, art music and popular music, concert hall performance and community sing-along. Returning as special guest artist is Austin's own Cynthia Clawson, and there are sure to be many memorable moments among the variety of musical styles in this hot-ticket concert. Be warned, performances take place all over town, not just at the Carillon! *Thu., Dec. 6, 8pm. The Carillon, 2630 Exposition. Carillon Gala: Fri., Dec. 7, 6pm (dinner), 8pm (concert). The Carillon. Sat., Dec. 8, 2:30 & 8pm: University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio. Sun., Dec. 9, 2:30pm: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa. Sun., Dec. 9, 8pm: The Carillon. Mon., Dec. 10, 8pm: St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th. Tue., Dec. 11, 8pm: St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 476-5775. $40-60 ($15, students at non-Carillon performances); $180-325 (Carillon Gala, includes champagne dessert reception).* **www.conspirare.org**.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY Enjoy nine galleries within walking distance with ample parking. Venues include Art on 5th, Artworks, Austin Galleries, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, and Wally Workman Gallery. *Thu., Dec. 6, 6-8pm. 478-4440.* **www.artaustin.org/westend.htm**.

BOULDIN CREEK STUDIO TOUR Here's the second annual iteration of this excellent holiday tour, starting at Glitzkrieg Studios and featuring a plethora of amazing artists in their studios. Recommended. *Sat., Dec. 1, 10am-2pm. 1608 S. Third*. **www.bouldincreekstudiotour.com**.

RUSSELL COLLECTION: MATISSE Pierre Henri Matisse, Henri Matisse's grandson, will be in attendance and create an original work at each of two shows featuring lithographs and etchings by the modern masters: Miro, Chagall, Picasso, and Matisse. *Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Fri., 6-9pm; Sat., 5-8pm. 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440*. **www.russell-collection.com**.

ART ON 5TH: GERALD SCHWARTS Original oils of sunsets in a variety of settings. *Thu., Nov. 29, 10am-6pm. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.* **www.arton5th.com**.

BLANTON DECEMBER EVENTS **Baroque Christmas Concert at the Blanton** *Sun., Dec. 2, 3pm*. **Art Fix: Yoga in the Galleries** *Thu., Dec. 6, 6pm*. **B Scene: Holiday Party** *Fri., Dec. 6, 6pm*. **Trunk Show: Jewelry** *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 8 & 9*. **Blanton Book Club: *Girl With a Pearl Earring*** *Thu., Dec. 13, 6pm*. **Hot Art Hip Kids** *Dec. 26 & 30, 3:30pm. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS HOLIDAY SALE In this (15th annual!) South Austin holiday tradition, visitors are welcomed into the artists' open studios, where they'll be serving refreshments and selling raku pottery, ceramic art, watercolor and acrylic paintings, Venetian glass jewelry, beaded jewelry, fused and flame-worked glass, metalwork, deerskin totem bags, and more. *Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. 2309 Thornton, 440-8485.* **www.thorntonroadstudios.com**.

OPENING

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Recommended for excellent shopping. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 7-10pm*. Exhibition: *Nov. 29-Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

D BERMAN GALLERY: HILLEVI BAAR AND STEVE WIMAN Baar's expertly designed pencil renderings on Mylar and Wiman's stunning arrangements of found objects are lovely and sufficient to drive the cold winter away. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: PATTERN PATTERN PATTERN Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen have curated an excellent group show for the holiday season. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 5. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

HI ART: DIS FUNCTIONAL Art with a purpose or utility beyond traditional art that can be used, worn, or employed in some fashion – including a wooden television, handbags, lighting, and more. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 6:30pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 10. 111 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/392-7278*. **www.hiarttexas.com**.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: LAYERS Figurative brilliance created by several artists and curated by Lanie McCormick. Recommended. Reception: *Fri., Nov. 30, 7pm-12mid. 301 Chicon, Unit F, 296-6624.* **www.austinfigurativegallery.com**.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: 12 BUY Now in its third year, this juried show features works by more than 30 Austin artists. The title of the exhibit plays on the requirement that all pieces measure 12 inches by 12 inches and the affordability of the smaller size. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 1, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 22*. Hours: *Fri-Sat., noon-4pm*.

TIRU GALLERY: FRAGMENTS IN THE LAND OF WISH Houston photographer Sergio Santos' works are accompanied with music by Daphne Glasgow during the opening. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 1, 6-9pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 15. 3701 Guadalupe.*

BOLM STUDIOS: ANDY ST. MARTIN St. Martin ends a busy year of exhibits with new paintings and a large suite of expressive pencil drawings, a perfectly proportioned installation, and the Dog Room: three paintings in homage to certain dogs who shall remain nameless. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 1, 7-10pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 7. 5305 Bolm #10, 385-1670.*

DOUGHERTY ART CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN 12th annual exhibition of multiple originals! Reception: *Mon., Dec. 3, 6-9pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 7. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.* **www.womenprintmakers.com**.

CLOSING

DAVIS GALLERY: PAINTAN This guest curated show includes the works of Stella Alexi, Ethan Azarian, Jennifer Balkan, David Elliot, Valerie Fowler, Bonnie Gammill, David Leonard, Christopher St. Leger, Andy St. Martin, and Jana Swec. *Through Dec. 1. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

LOTUS GALLERY: EYES ON PARIS Paintings by Richard Ewen capture the essence of Parisian store interiors. *Through Nov. 30. 1211 W. Sixth, 474-1700*. **www.lotusasianart.com**.

AUSTIN GALLERIES An exhibition of internationally renowned artists from Mallorca, Spain. Featuring new work by Borja Fernandez, Pep Suari, and Bartolome Sastre. *Through Dec. 1. 1219 W. Sixth, 495-9363.*

COME ON FEEL THE WHATEVER features new work by Anthony Romero, Jess Minckley, Scott Jackson, J. DeFrese, Ryan Lauderdale, Jeff Hauger, Greg Piwonka, and Spirit Wanderer. *Through Nov. 30. Peter Center, Concordia University, 3400 N. I-35*. **www.concordia.edu**.

WALLY WORKMAN: MARTHA GANNON Gannon's work is also part of AMOA's permanent collection; here's an excellent venue to view it in. *Through Dec. 1. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.*

NEW EAST ARTS: MUSIC, POLITICS, FUN presents new creations of found-object sculpture, glasswork, and painting by returning artist David Zvanut from Commerce, Texas. *Through Nov. 30. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438.* **www.diversearts.org**.

ONGOING

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577.* **www.eyecontactart.com**.

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest Prismacolor works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667.* **www.gallerypollock.com**.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix, 385-3591.* **www.serieproject.org**.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth*.

1906 GALLERY: PORTRAIT OF A REFUGEE This is the last exhibition for the 1906 Gallery, and it's a hell of a fine one. It features new works by Mirak Jamal, the fierce artist and former Austinite whose family was forced out of the U.S. – they're Iranian; you suppose that might have something to do with it? – and had to take refuge in Canada. But never mind the politics: The man has some serious design chops, and this show is recommended. *Through Dec. 9. 301-I Chicon, 628-0712.* **www.thiscityisours.com**.

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it's as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224.* **www.amoa.org**.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.* **www.pablotaboadastudio.com**.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527.* **www.austinartglass.com**.

AVENUE GALLERY: THE MANY FACES OF DUNCAN features photographs of the popular Scottish Fold cat belonging to photographer Kip Holm. *1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600.* **www.avenuegallerysoco.com**.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770.* **www.austinbluemoon.com**.

STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: IN CITIZEN'S GARB features an exhibition on Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891. *Through Jan. 6, 2008. 1800 Congress, 936-8746.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

CRL: COLLABORATION FROM CONCEPTION explores the process of artists combining efforts to create art with a collective idea or common interest in mind. This is especially exciting because the artists participating here are Sodalitas (Shea Little, Joseph Phillips, and Jana Swec), Stephanie Bonham, Art Silva, Katalin Hausel, Jaclyn Pryor, and Leanne Zacharias. Artist talk: *Tue., Dec. 4, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 22. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: GREECE ON FIRE New work by the Painterly Handsomes (Troy Allen, Chris Holloway, Cody Scrogum, and Fred Tabares). *Through Jan. 6. 411 Brazos #99.* **www.elsemadsen.com**.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

LA PEÑA: LULA MARCONDES Vibrant narrative graphics to delight your eyes and sense of story. *Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

BROCCA GALLERY *1103 E. Sixth.* **www.broccagallery.com**.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: FROM REVOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE Following the 1910 revolution, Mexico witnessed an explosion of creativity, exemplified in this show curated by James Oles and featuring the important modern Mexican art collection of Lance and Erika Aaron: works by master artists David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquerido, and Olga Costa. *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373.* **www.mexic-artemuseum.org**.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS Take a curator-led tour of "The Orbs of Ghost Road," Pepper's Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566.* **www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php**.

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961.* **www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com**.

SLUGFEST: MATT REBHOLZ Here's the artist's newest work: A series of etchings called "The Golem," well worth witnessing for its narrative power alone – to say nothing of the compelling visuals. (See review p.84.) *Through Dec. 16. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204.*

TOTALLY COOL/TOTALLY ART features more than 800 works from local teens who participate in the citywide program. *South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland, 444-6601.*

TEXAS FOLKLIFE – LA LABOR: THE PAINTINGS OF ROEL FLORES Flores, the first-generation American son of Mexican immigrants, was 15 when he became a full-time migrant worker and began playing bajo-sexto with a conjunto band on weekends. He fills his acrylic paintings with images of fields, sunsets, instruments, and other aspects of his life as a Tejano in South Texas. *Through Dec. 21. 1317 S. Congress.* **www.texasfolklife.org**.

SPACES

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT Paintings by some of Austin's best. *102 Krebs.* **ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com**.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

THE GREEN MUSE The works of J. Lowry Doile. *519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.*

HANG UPS: THE MANIPULATORS An exhibition of works by four Texas artists working in bronze, steel, precious metals, enamels, and concrete. *Through Nov. 30. 2300 Lohmans Crossing Rd., 263-9333.*

CORNERS OF THE WORLD: INTERNATIONAL CENTER Paintings by Czech Republic-born Marcela Kourkova. *Through Jan. 1. 201 E. Second.* **cotwart@gmail.com**.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. *1720 S. First, 442-6366.* **www.roadhouserelics.com**.

SHORELINE GRILL Mixed media constructions by Joseph Hammer and Randall Reid, with sculpture by George McFarland. *Through Jan. 5. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300.* **www.shorelinegrill.com**.

VIN BISTRO: MARTHA KEATING "Found Objects," collage on paper. *Through Nov. 26. 1601 W. 38th.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

IDEA GALLERY: WOMEN IN THE STUDIOS Space for woman artists will be available at the Tillery Street studio on the first of December. Contact Deanna Miesche: *699-4811. 921-7744.*

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL FOR WORKS See their website for applications. Deadline: *Fri., Jan., 4, 2008. 301 W. Second, 974-9314.* **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp**.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: *Feb. 29, 2008. 301 Chicon, Unit F, 296-6624.* **www.austinfigurativegallery.com**.

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to school children, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish and; once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: *Sun., Jan. 20, 2008. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ANTONYA NELSON This visiting professor of fiction at UT's Michener Center has been described as a "master of the casually scathing observation." She reads from her works tonight: Highly recommended. *Tue., Dec. 4, 7:30pm. Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus).*

DISCOVERY SPEAKER SERIES: DAVID OSHINSKY is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Polio: An American Story,* a gripping and insightful look at the polio scare and how it influenced our culture. *Tue., Dec. 4, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

ANNE GEDDES calendars it up with her latest, *A Labor of Love*. *Tue., Dec. 4, noon. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

LAURENCE PARENT makes good on his newly released book of local photography, *Austin Impressions*. Also featuring his other stunning books on Texas and its diverse geography. *Sun., Dec. 2, 1pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

JEN OHLSON shares the passion of Austin's trailblazers in her *Every Town Needs a Trail: Lady Bird Johnson's Quiet Legacy*. *Sat., Dec. 1, 1pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

MARCIA KAYLACKIE works those patches with *Texas Quilts and Quilters: A Lone Star Legacy*. *Sat., Dec. 1, 3pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

THE TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR 2008 READING features 10 poets from the calendar, mostly Austin-based poets, including Joe Blanda, Cindy Huyser, Deborah Akers, Katherine Oldmixon, Michael Hill, and the top two award-winners from the Texas Poetry Calendar Awards 2008, Judy Jensen and Kurt Heinzelman. In addition, out-of-towners Aliene Pylant, Mary Gomez Parham, and Margaret Ellis Hill join this excellent crew of Texas poets. *Sat., Dec. 1, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

MICHAEL J. LOCKWOOD gets ballsy with *Women Have All the Power – Too Bad They Don't Know It*, purporting to reveal secrets every man's daughter should know. *Sat., Dec. 1, 4:30-6:30pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

READ AND FEED Les McGehee, Joe O'Connell, and Robert Stikmanz read and perform at the Dalton Publishing booth of the Sunset Valley Farmers Market. Fresh and local and organic as sweet night loam. Highly recommended. *Sat., Dec. 1, 9am-1pm. Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd., 280-1976.* **www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org**.

CEDAR CREEK POETRY II Hear some more of Westlake's finest young poets as part of an in-store book fair for Cedar Creek Elementary. *Fri., Nov. 30, 6pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

ANTHONY LAPPE AND DAN GOLDMAN go graphic on the future of war and journalism in their novel *Shooting War*. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

BENJAMIN REED AND BILLY COPE read from their fiction and expect a thrilling docudrama during the intermission. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634.*

GARY KEITH historizes with *Eckhardt: There Once Was a Congressman From Texas*. Progressive U.S. Congressman Bob Eckhardt was a force to reckon with in Texas and national politics from the 1940s to until 1980. *Fri., Nov. 30, 5:30-7:30pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958.* **www.scholzgarten.net**.

LIZ CARMACK presents her *Historic Hotels of Texas*, a gorgeously illustrated and detailed guide. *Thu., Nov. 29, 6-8pm. Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. Wed., Dec. 5, 2-4pm. Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911.*

RIO REVIEW: FALL ISSUE READING The journal features poetry, fiction, essays, and screenplays written and edited by the students of ACC. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm. Austin Community College Gallery Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande, 828-9368.*

MICHAEL BENEDIKT posits that *God Is the Good We Do*. Interesting take on "God" as the youngest and weakest force in the universe. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. *Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.*

WORD/JAZZ The word/jazz performance series presents collaborative spoken word and improvised music, featuring an ever-evolving all-star cast of Austin's best performance poets, musicians, and writers who create live, spontaneous compositions. Harold McMillan's word/jazz low stars include spoken-word standouts Ivanho, Thom the World Poet, Ricardo Acevedo, and others. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

LAW OF ATTRACTION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks, as well as related books. *Every Saturday, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP This group of screenwriters is open to new members to read, discuss, and critique one another's work. The group meets every other Monday. *Mon., Dec. 3, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

7% SOLUTION CLUB rains sparklers on *The Chinatown Death Cloud Peril* by Paul Malmont. *Mon., Dec. 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB goes on a *March* by Geraldine Brooks. *Wed., Dec. 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK A mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. *Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872.* **www.austinwritersblock.com**.

NORTH VILLAGE FACT SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY CLUB catches the *Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. *Mon., Dec. 3, 7-8:30pm. North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson, 458-2239.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

BECKETT'S LIBRARY AND MANUSCRIPTS Noted Samuel Beckett scholars Mark Nixon of Reading University and Dirk Van Hulle of the University of Antwerp, Belgium, discuss Beckett's personal library and the evidence of the influences of his reading in his work. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free.* **www.hrc.utexas.edu**.

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF SELF-PUBLISHING with Linda Everett Moyé, and J.D. and Al Chaney. They'll teach you what you need to know to get published tomorrow. Call for reservations. *Sat., Dec. 1, 10am-2pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 210-643-4365. $30.* **www.mitchie.com**.

OPEN MICS

LITERARY COFFEEHOUSE with featured neo-Beat poet J.R. Ryan. He'll be backed by jazz greats Alex Coke on saxophone and Russell Scanlon on guitar. Open mic follows. And don't forget the free food! *Mon., Dec. 3, 7pm. ACC Rio Grande Campus student lounge. 828-9368.*

EXPRESSIONS: FESTIVE SEASONS features Aspects of Mundi, Herman Nelson, John Berry, and special guests. Music by Chris Van Loan. Bring a plate of food for the potluck, canned food for Poets Pantry. *Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.* **www.austinbahai.org**.

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new day. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.* **www.southaustinstudios.com**.

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576.* **www.genuinejoe.com**.

HIDEOUT MIC is still an Open Universe open poetry mic event with your newest host: somebody who loves you. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry).* **www.hideouttheatre.com**.

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.freespeechart.com**.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. $100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Beer Garden, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200.* **www.nps2007.com**.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. *Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. $5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets).* **poetryatx@yahoo.com**.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stalwarts. *Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.*

MISCELLANEOUS

THE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE invites customers to purchase books for donation at Barnes & Noble bookstores through Jan. 1. Barnes & Noble will distribute the donated books to children through locally designated nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, and literacy partners. This year Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley will be collecting books for the Women's Storybook Project and Helping Hand Home. *Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

MORE POETRY! *& sitting between rows of young green corn a lost man fingers curled edges shred the sleeve ribbon thread string to mote each skin an hour a year a life they spread out before him beside him inside him each wanting him to see what the other has lost in leaving him to find to make another field of this field of this moment of this last bend into who he has never been cupped in each or how at the fair he watched the cotton candy man spin from nothing a sweet pink layer upon layer wrapped round an empty tube dissolving instantly & reddening his tongue with another absence & the bearded lady for an extra five would reveal her chest or in the rain how no one would ride the Wheel or perhaps the mud drying stiff each cell becomes a barker a ring stacked high & wide*. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

like catching a fish
and wanting to catch another
wanting to feel that tug on the line
wanting the pole to bend
wanting the water to splash
wanting to smell that fishy smell
and then have the pleasure of washing it off
feeling the cold water
numb your fingers
minutes hours days years
a life of infinite moments

– Jason Crowson,
from "your carnival field is inspiring"

New Reviews

AAJA NACHLE

D: Anil Mehta; with Madhuri Dixit, Kunal Kapoor, Divya Dutta, Vinay Pathak. (NR, 143 min., subtitled)

Not screened for press. A dancer in New York returns home to India to see the teacher who taught her to dance and, ultimately, fight to save the school he built.

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Tinseltown South

AWAKE

D: Joby Harold; with Jessica Alba, Hayden Christensen, Terrence Howard, Lena Olin, Sam Robards. (R, 78 min.)

Not screened in advance for press. The completely horrifying and recently popularized phenomenon of "anesthetic awareness," in which the patient is fully conscious yet physically paralyzed during surgery, is grist for this psychological thriller.

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

HOLLY

D: Guy Moshe; with Ron Livingston, Chris Penn, Udo Kier, Virginie Ledoyen, Thuy Nguyen, Pornpatchaya Supannarat. (R, 114 min.)

I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Livingston. From the first time I saw him in *Swingers* right through his cult coronation in *Office Space* and his bout with drunken disaffection in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* (drunken disaffection always seemed to be the most reasonable response to being shot at by Nazis for four years), I've found him unfailingly likable, like Matt Damon or *Jerry Maguire* or peanut butter & jelly sandwiches. But I never realized he had anything of the artist in him until I saw *Holly*. In Moshe's new film, Livingston throws himself with defeated gusto into the role of Patrick, a self-loathing American expatriate in Cambodia stumbling his way from underground poker game to seedy bar in search of the perfect rafter from which to hang himself. Patrick's life is a void and a vacuum, a manifestation of the complete absence of meaning in the universe, and he knows it. Which is why he looks so exhausted, like he gave up on life years ago, but his body never got the message from his brain to die. Disheveled and unshaven, he's the very model of a modern lost soul. Until he meets Holly (Nguyen), a 12-year-old Vietnamese girl who was sold into a life of prostitution by her parents. Suddenly, and for reasons unknown even to him, Patrick decides he's going to save her. Unfortunately, he isn't really trained to right such an enormous wrong, and the great tragedy and triumph of *Holly* lies in Livingston's brilliant portrayal of a man far too accustomed to a life of drunken self-defeat to turn his fortunes around on anything as simple as a stray act of human kindness. Watching him drag himself through streets filled with prostitutes who are barely old enough to ride a bike, I was reminded of the crooked cop in *L.A. Confidential*, who gets mocked by his captain for indulging a pang of conscience: "Don't start tryin' to do the right thing, boy-o," his boss warns. "You haven't had the practice." Unfortunately for Holly (but fortunately for those of us who prefer our protagonists conflicted), Patrick is out of practice, too. He's no hero; he's just a man awakening to the realization that, after all these years, he still has some small sense of right and wrong. A lot of good that'll do him in Phnom Penh. *(A representative of the Coalition Against Victims of Human Trafficking will be present at the 7:10pm screening on Friday, Nov. 30, to discuss the realities of the film at a Reel Talk event. The film's director will also be on hand at several unspecified screenings throughout the weekend.)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Arbor





ROMANCE & CIGARETTES

D: John Turturro; with James Gandolfini, Susan Sarandon, Kate Winslet, Steve Buscemi, Mary-Louise Parker, Aida Turturro, Mandy Moore, Bobby Cannavale, Christopher Walken. (R, 105 min.)

Nick Murder (Gandolfini) has got a hard-boiled name, and his two vices – the title's romance and cigarettes – have engined more than a few pulp novels, but this poetry-writing construction worker is all bark, no bite. Caught between wife Kitty (Sarandon), who maybe never loved him, and mistress Tula (Winslet), who only wants to jump him, Nick is powerfully conflicted, incapable of ending either relationship. So what's a guy to do? Why, break out in song and dance! Barring thought bubbles, it's certainly the most transparent way to announce what's going on in any character's head at any given moment – which means Nick, after a vicious dressing-down from his wife, tucks into Engelbert Humperdinck's version of "A Man Without Love"; newly wronged, Kitty tears her way through Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart" with Eddie Izzard and a church choir singing backup. The first few times this happens, there's something rather charming in the spectacle, so absurd as to be freeing. This is Turturro's third outing as a writer/director, although he's still better known for his work with the Coen brothers (who executive produce and provide the spiritual DNA), and the long-delayed *Romance & Cigarettes* is a labor of love so go-for-broke you wonder if somebody gave Turturro six months to live. But he makes a curious decision, which by my count is the film's biggest undoing. His actors don't lip-sync, but they don't carry the songs, either; rather, the original song is playing, and the actors sing along, only quieter. If the intention was to bring us closer in to the characters' emotional states, the effect is quite the opposite – something between the embarrassment of karaoke and the boredom of watching somebody sing along to the radio while idling in traffic. Still, the first few numbers do dazzle, and the first act of the film – which recalls early Hal Hartley with its working-class milieu and stilted yet grandiose language – powers through on spunk, Tom Stern's lovely lensing, and a commitment to throw everything at the wall to see what sticks – which is how Turturro gets away with setting the story in some nebulous era where doo-wop rubs up against proto-punk and with casting (his sister) Aida Turturro and Parker as Gandolfini's kids (a mathematical impossibility at, respectively, one and three years his junior). The performances are all swell, especially Gandolfini, with a dirty little mustache; Winslet, all va-va-voom; and Sarandon, who evokes years of neglect in the simple but deadly: "I trimmed your nose hairs, you fuck!" But as the songs pile up and the plot putters along, *Romance & Cigarettes* wears thin, like a moral for the titular addiction: Sure, there's the sweet dream of that first drag, but a whole pack'll do a body bad. – *Kimberley Jones*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

First Runs

***Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.**

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

D: Julie Taymor; with Evan Rachel Wood, Jim Sturgess, Joe Anderson, Dana Fuchs, Martin Luther McCoy, T.V. Carpio. (PG-13, 133 min.)

If you aren't fed up with the literalism of Taymor's tribute to the music of the Beatles and the zeitgeist of the Sixties by the time a character named Prudence barges into a scene through a bathroom window, then … your threshold for this kind of thing is a lot higher than mine. Taymor is a grand visualist of the stage and screen, but a born storyteller she is not. Here she drapes a few dozen well-known Beatles tunes onto a handful of characters in an attempt to relate something of the cultural crucible in which these songs evolved, despite the fact that the tunes follow no chronological progression. The film occasionally escapes its deadly literalism in humorous sequences featuring Eddie Izzard, Bono, and Joe Cocker. Despite ardent defenders, this film will do nothing to infuse life into the current minirevival of movie musicals and is as softheaded as the wishful refrain "All You Need Is Love." *(09/28/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★ Dobie

AMERICAN GANGSTER

D: Ridley Scott; with Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Josh Brolin, Ruby Dee, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cuba Gooding Jr., Ted Levine, Armand Assante, John Hawkes, Roger Guenveur Smith, Clarence Williams III, RZA, Carla Gugino, Joe Morton, Common. (R, 157 min.)

Based on Mark Jacobson's *New York* magazine article, *American Gangster* does a crackerjack job at nailing the look and feel of New York City's bad old days, when Mayors Lindsay and Beame (mis)ruled over the Manhattan canyons and Bronx tenements aided and abetted by a police department riddled

Openings

Aaja Nachle (NR)

Awake (R)

Holly (R)

Romance & Cigarettes (R)

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

with more internal corruption and outer rot than a smack-head's corpse. At the height of the Vietnam War, it was Frank Lucas (a sizzling, ferocious Washington) who figured out a whole new angle on the heroin trade and built an empire. Only when a sudden fit of pimpy ostentation hit did he come to the attention of Jersey cop Richie Roberts (Crowe). Roberts is uniformly loathed and scorned by the NYPD's dirty cops (led by a great Brolin), who view him as a dupe for not going with the bribery flow. Crowe has rarely been better, and the same goes for director Scott. *(11/02/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

AUGUST RUSH

D: Kirsten Sheridan; with Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, Robin Williams, William Sadler, Leon G. Thomas III, Jamia Simone Nash. (PG, 104 min.)

August Rush is a rather prosaic, oddly anxious, contemporary take on Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, with Williams – in nasty-man twee mode, a newish one for him – thrown in for bad measure. Highmore's parents are ably essayed by Russell and Rhys Meyers, one a classical cellist destined for greatness with the New York Philharmonic, the other a scruffy Irish ne'er-do-well who fronts a vaguely Poguesy band of rockers. After spending a magical night coupling on a rooftop overlooking Manhattan's Washington Square Arch, they promptly go their separate ways. Neither one realizes that, via a quick (if narratively convenient) switcheroo on the part of Russell's overprotective dad, they've sown the seed of August Rush. Will his parents, through a magical, utterly unlikely yet strangely compelling turn of fate, come running once they hear the longing in their little maestro's edgily hip, borderline Ani DiFrancoid slap-strumming? Oh ho! Far be it from me to state the obvious. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of beedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. *(11/02/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan. (R, 116 min.)

Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry story to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. *(11/09/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Dobie

BELLA

D: Alejandro G. Monteverde; with Eduardo Verástegui, Tammy Blanchard, Manny Perez, Angélica Aragón, Jaime Tirelli, Ali Landry, Ramon Rodriguez. (PG-13, 91 min.)

Bella is, indeed, a beautiful film. The bustling, cab-crowded thoroughfares of New York City have rarely looked as inviting and the coastline as momentously beachy as they do in this film. Monteverde's film was shot by cinematographer Andrew Cadelago (both men are University of Texas graduates) with an unusual attention to detail for what is essentially a character study of two people. This only adds to the nuance and sense of grace inherent in Verástegui's and Blanchard's performances, both of which are models of emotional restraint and resonance in what could have been a soppy, overwrought melodrama. This is a film that embraces and celebrates the possibility for change and growth, both without and within, both personal and spiritual. Monteverde's unobtrusive direction makes *Bella* into something far more interesting and affecting than the mediocre telenovela it could have been. The film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival in 2006. *(10/26/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Arbor, Metropolitan

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief: Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is crackerjack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. *(11/16/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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BEOWULF 3D (PG–13) Fri. 12:10 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:35 11:55
Sat. 10:00 12:10 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:35 11:55
Sun. 10:00 12:10 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:35
Mon. - Thu. 12:10 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:35
AWAKE (R) Fri. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:25
Sat. 11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:25
Sun. 11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
ENCHANTED (PG) Fri. 12:15 2:35 4:50 7:15 9:40 11:55
Sat. 10:05 12:15 2:35 4:50 7:15 9:40 11:55
Sun. 10:05 12:15 2:35 4:50 7:15 9:40
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:35 4:50 7:15 9:40
HITMAN (R) Fri. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sat. 10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sun. 10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25
THE MIST (R) Fri. 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 11:45
Sat. 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 11:45
Sun. 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
Mon. - Thu. 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
AUGUST RUSH (PG) Fri. 2:05 4:35 7:05 9:35 11:59
Sat. 11:35 2:05 4:35 7:05 9:35 11:59
Sun. 11:35 2:05 4:35 7:05 9:35
Mon. - Thu. 2:05 4:35 7:05 9:35
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) Fri. 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15 11:30
Sat. 10:15 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15 11:30
Sun. 10:15 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
Mon. - Thu. 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:30 3:40 7:00 10:10
BEE MOVIE (PG) Fri. 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25 11:30
Sat. 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25 11:30
Sun. 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25
Mon. - Thu. 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25
FRED CLAUS (PG) Fri. & Tue. - Thu. 1:50 4:20 7:00 9:20
Sat. & Sun. 11:20 1:50 4:20 7:00 9:20
Mon. 1:50 4:20

★ - Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons
Tickets available online at GALAXYTHEATRES.com

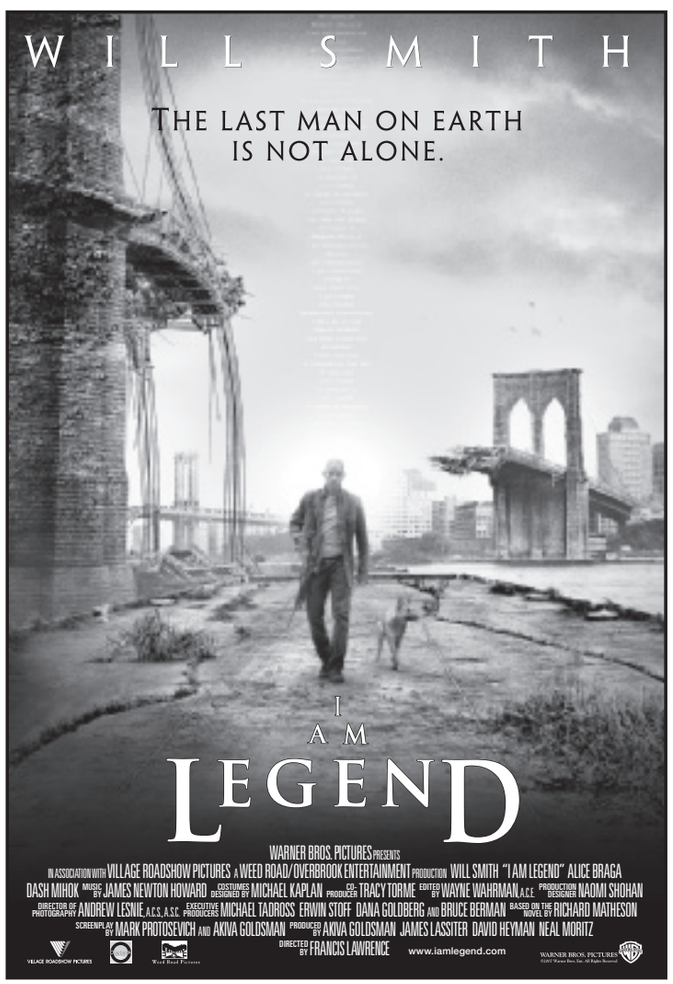


Special ADVANCE Screening
Monday, Dec. 10, 7:30pm

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to **austinchronicle.com/contests** by 4pm, Tuesday, Dec. 4

This film is not yet rated.

No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission.



Opens Nationwide Friday, Dec. 14

austinchronicle.com/contests

Showtimes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ *320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.*
***Army of Darkness* Quote-Along:** Thu (12/6), 7:00pm
Cinematexas: ***Frownland:*** Sun, 7:00pm
Into the Wild: Fri, 3:30pm; Sat-Sun, 12:45pm
Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Thu (12/6), 9:45pm
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40, 11:55; Sat, 1:00, 4:00, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40, 11:55; Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Tue, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Wed, 4:00, 9:40; Thu (12/6), 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
Open Screen Night: Wed, 10:00pm
Movies & Music: ***The Public Enemy:*** Wed, 9:30pm
Master Pancake: ***Road House:*** Fri-Sat, 9:45, 11:59
Weird Wednesday: ***Switchblade Sisters:*** Wed, 12mid
Terror Thursday: ***The Visitor:*** Thu (12/6), 12mid
The Whole Shootin' Match: Fri-Sat, 7:15pm; Sun, 4:00, 10:00; Mon, 4:30, 7:15; Tue, 4:30, 9:45; Wed, 4:00pm; Thu (12/6), 4:30pm
AFS: ***The Wind of the Night:*** Tue, 7:00pm
Movies & Music: ***The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon:*** Wed-Thu (12/6), 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-8135.*
American Gangster: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:10, 7:05, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:45am, 3:10, 10:30pm; Tue-Wed, 11:45am, 3:10, 7:05, 10:30pm; Thu (12/6), 11:45am, 3:10, 7:05pm
****August Rush:*** 12:05, 3:05, 7:15, 10:25
****Beowulf:*** 12:15, 3:30, 7:25, 10:15
Tromatic Thursday: ***Beware: Children at Play:*** Thu (12/6), 10:00pm
Dan in Real Life: 12:10, 3:00, 7:10, 10:00
Gone Baby Gone: Fri, 7:35, 10:20; Sat, 10:20pm; Sun, 7:35, 10:20; Mon, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (12/6), 7:35, 10:20
TV: ***Heroes:*** Mon, 8:00pm
****Hitman:*** 12:40, 3:35, 7:30, 10:35
Lions for Lambs: Fri, 12:45, 3:40; Sat, 12:45pm; Sun, 12:45, 3:40; Mon, 12:45pm; Tue-Thu (12/6), 12:45, 3:40
****No Country for Old Men:*** 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05
****Scrooged:*** Fri-Sat, 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*
American Gangster: Fri, 11:45am, 7:05, 10:45pm; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45pm; Mon, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45; Tue, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/6), 3:15, 7:05, 10:45
Bee Movie: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 1:25, 4:00, 9:40pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:25, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00pm; Mon, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00; Tue, 11:05am, 1:25, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00pm; Wed, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00; Thu (12/6), 4:00, 9:40
Beowulf: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Tue, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25pm; Wed, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Thu (12/6), 4:40, 10:25
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/6), 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Lars and the Real Girl: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; Tue, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (12/6), 4:30, 7:25, 10:10
aGLIFF: ***Naked Boys Singing:*** Tue, 7:00pm
Romance & Cigarettes: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; Tue, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:45, 10:05pm; Wed-Thu (12/6), 4:45, 7:30, 10:05

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE *2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320.* Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
American Gangster: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Wed, 3:00, 6:45, 10:15; Thu (12/6), 6:45, 10:15
Fred Claus: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 9:50; Mon, 3:50, 9:50; Tue, 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 9:50; Wed, 3:50, 6:55, 9:50; Thu (12/6), 3:50, 9:50
TV at the Alamo: ***Heroes:*** Mon, 7:15pm
****I'm Not There:*** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:35, 7:15, 10:20; Mon, 3:35, 7:15, 10:20; Tue, 12:10, 3:35, 7:15, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/6), 3:35, 7:15, 10:20
****The Mist:*** Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:55, 7:20, 10:25; Mon, 3:55, 7:20, 10:25; Tue, 12:40, 3:55, 7:20, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/6), 3:55, 7:20, 10:25
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: 12:50, 4:00, 7:30, 10:10
Bella: 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30
Holly: 11:55am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45pm
I'm Not There: 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:50
Into the Wild: 12:40, 4:15, 7:50
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 1:00, 2:40, 3:45, 5:20, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40; Mon, 12:00, 1:00, 2:40, 3:45, 5:20, 8:00, 9:40; Tue-Thu (12/6), 12:00, 1:00, 2:40, 3:45, 5:20, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40
Romance & Cigarettes: 12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts before 4pm Friday through Sunday and during holidays. Matinee discounts before 6pm on weekdays.
American Gangster: Fri-Sun, 12:40, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:05, 7:15, 10:25
****August Rush:*** Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:00, 5:35, 8:00, 10:35
****Awake:*** Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:00, 10:15
Bee Movie: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
****Before the Devil Knows You're Dead:*** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
***Beowulf* (Closed-Captioned):** Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/6), 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10
Dan in Real Life: Fri-Sun, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25; Mon, 4:25, 10:25; Tue-Thu (12/6), 4:15, 7:10, 10:20
****Enchanted:*** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
Fred Claus: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Sun, 11:00am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05
****Hitman:*** Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 8:20, 10:30pm; Sun, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 8:20, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:50, 5:05, 8:20, 10:30
Love in the Time of Cholera: Fri-Sun, 12:25pm; Mon, 1:25pm; Tue-Thu (12/6), 1:15pm
****The Mist:*** Fri, 10:10am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05pm; Sat, 10:10am, 1:05, 4:05, 10:05pm; Sun-Thu (12/6), 1:05, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:45
****No Country for Old Men:*** Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:20, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45
****This Christmas:*** Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05pm; Sun-Thu (12/6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK *1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.*
American Gangster: Fri, 3:15, 7:05, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:15, 7:05, 10:25
****August Rush:*** Fri, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35
****Awake:*** Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Bee Movie: Fri, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30
Beowulf: Fri, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:45; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:45
****Enchanted:*** Fri, 2:45, 3:50, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 1:00, 2:45, 3:50, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:40; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:45, 3:50, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:40
Fred Claus: Fri, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
****Hitman:*** Fri, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
****The Mist:*** Fri, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 2:25, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:25, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:25, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA *12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.*
American Gangster: Fri, 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35
****August Rush:*** Fri, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:40, 6:45, 9:50
****Awake:*** Fri, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
Bee Movie: Fri, 1:55, 2:40, 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:55, 2:40, 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
Beowulf: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30
Dan in Real Life: Fri, 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25
****Enchanted:*** Fri, 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:50, 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30
Fred Claus: Fri, 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
****Hitman:*** Fri, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
****The Mist:*** Fri, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:55, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm.
The Bourne Ultimatum: 1:10, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50
****The Comebacks:*** 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55
****Dragon Wars: D-War:*** 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 10:00
****Good Luck Chuck:*** 7:00, 9:25
The Heartbreak Kid: 1:00, 6:45
****Mr. Bean's Holiday:*** 1:25, 4:00, 7:15, 9:35
Mr. Woodcock: 9:40pm
Ratatouille: 1:30, 4:15, 6:55
Superbad: 3:45, 9:30
****Things We Lost in the Fire:*** 1:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45
Underdog: 1:35, 3:40

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK *4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*
American Gangster: 12:50, 4:30, 7:55
****August Rush:*** Fri, 1:20, 4:10, 6:45, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 6:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:20, 4:10, 6:45, 9:50
****Awake:*** Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:15, 4:45, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:15, 4:45, 8:00, 10:15
Bee Movie: Fri, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:45, 12:30, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10pm; Mon-Tue, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10; Wed, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10; Thu (12/6), 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10
Beowulf: Fri, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:30, 10:05
Dan in Real Life: Fri, 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20
****Enchanted:*** Fri, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20
Fred Claus: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
****Hitman:*** Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25
****The Mist:*** Fri, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00
****This Christmas:*** Fri, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS *9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*
American Gangster: Fri, 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15
****August Rush:*** Fri, 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
****Awake:*** Fri, 1:10, 3:50, 7:25, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:10, 3:50, 7:25, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:10, 3:50, 7:25, 10:30
Bee Movie: Fri, 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:45, 6:50, 7:10, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 11:30, 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:45, 6:50, 7:10, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:45, 6:50, 7:10, 9:15
Beowulf: Fri, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:35am, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20
****Enchanted:*** Fri, 12:50, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:40, 7:35, 9:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 11:05, 12:50, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:40, 7:35, 9:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Tue, 12:50, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:40, 7:35, 9:20, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/6), 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20
Fred Claus: Fri, 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:05, 6:55, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 11:25, 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:05, 6:55, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:05, 6:55, 9:40
****Hitman:*** Fri, 1:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25
****The Mist:*** Fri, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25
****This Christmas:*** Fri, 1:05, 3:55, 7:05, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:05, 3:55, 7:05, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:05, 3:55, 7:05, 10:00

DOBIE THEATRE *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*
Across the Universe: 9:30pm
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Fri, 4:20, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10; Mon-Thu (12/6), 7:10pm
Control: Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/6), 7:00, 9:50
The Darjeeling Limited: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/6), 7:20, 10:00
I'm Not There: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/6), 6:50, 9:40

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.* No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
American Gangster: 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10
August Rush: Fri, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35, 11:59; Sat, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35, 11:59pm; Sun, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
Awake: Fri, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25; Sat, 11:20am, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
Bee Movie: Fri, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30; Sat, 11:00am, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
***Beowulf* (In Digital 3-D):** Fri, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55; Sat, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
Enchanted: Fri, 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55; Sat, 10:05am, 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55pm; Sun, 10:05am, 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
Fred Claus: Fri, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20pm; Mon, 1:50, 4:20; Tue-Thu (12/6), 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20
Hitman: Fri, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25
The Mist: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 11:45; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15, 11:30; Sat, 10:15am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:15am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.* Special 3-D attraction price is cost of normal ticket plus $2.50 premium.
American Gangster: Fri, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00; Sat, 12:00, 6:40, 10:00; Sun, 3:20, 6:40; Mon, 3:20, 10:00; Tue-Thu (12/6), 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
***American Gangster* (open captioned):** Fri, 12:00pm; Sat, 3:20pm; Sun, 12:00, 10:00; Mon, 12:00, 6:40
August Rush: 11:50am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25pm
Awake: 12:30, 3:00, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30
Bee Movie: 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30
Beowulf: Fri-Mon, 12:20, 12:55, 2:50, 3:30, 5:20, 6:50, 7:55, 9:25, 10:35; Tue, 12:20, 12:55, 2:50, 6:50, 10:35; Wed, 12:20, 2:50, 3:30, 5:20, 7:55, 9:25, 10:35; Thu (12/6), 12:20, 12:55, 2:50, 5:20, 6:50, 7:55, 10:35
****Beowulf* (Special 3-D attraction):** 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm
***Beowulf* (open captioned):** Tue, 3:30, 9:25; Wed, 12:55, 6:50; Thu (12/6), 3:30, 9:25
Dan in Real Life: 11:55am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55pm
****Enchanted:*** 11:45am, 12:15, 2:15, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15pm
Fred Claus: 12:50, 3:30, 6:45, 9:25
Hitman: 12:25, 2:40, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10
Lars and the Real Girl: 2:10, 6:55
Lions for Lambs: 11:55am, 4:40, 9:40pm
The Mist: 12:35, 3:40, 7:25, 10:20
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
This Christmas: 12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50

IMAX THEATRE *Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.*
The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience: Fri, 1:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00; Sat, 2:00, 7:00, 9:00; Sun, 2:00, 5:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu (12/6), 2:00, 7:00
Santa vs. the Snowman 3-D: Sat, 1:00, 4:00; Sun-Thu (12/6), 4:00pm
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure: Fri, 10:00am, 3:00pm; Sat, 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Sat, 11:00am; Mon-Thu (12/6), 11:00am
Wildfire: Feel the Heat: Sat, 12:00, 6:00; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:00, 6:00

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Bee Movie: 12:05, 12:35, 2:30, 3:10, 4:50, 5:30, 7:20, 7:45, 9:45, 10:10
Enchanted: 12:20, 1:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15
Fred Claus: 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
The Mist: 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: 12:00, 12:30, 2:20, 2:50, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:05
This Christmas: 12:50, 4:10, 6:55, 10:00

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.*
August Rush: 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:05, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35
Bella: 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
Beowulf: 12:20, 1:10, 2:05, 3:15, 4:30, 5:15, 6:45, 7:25, 8:00, 9:35, 10:05, 10:40
The Darjeeling Limited: 7:55, 10:40
****Enchanted:*** 11:50am, 12:15, 2:25, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:20pm
The Game Plan: 12:00, 2:35, 5:15
Hitman: 11:55am, 12:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:30, 8:15, 10:00, 10:45pm
Love in the Time of Cholera: 12:10, 4:00, 7:05, 10:15
The Mist: 12:40, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Saw IV: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:50, 5:20, 8:05, 10:35; Sun, 8:05, 10:35; Mon-Thu (12/6), 12:05, 2:50, 5:20, 8:05, 10:35
St. Olaf Christmas Festival: Sun, 3:00pm

MILLENNIUM THEATRE *1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.* Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.
Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Wed-Thu (12/6), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.* Special 3-D attraction price is cost of normal ticket plus $1.50 premium.
American Gangster: 12:05, 3:55, 7:40, 8:40
****August Rush:*** 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
****Awake:*** 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40
Bee Movie: 11:55am, 12:45, 1:05, 2:25, 3:10, 3:35, 4:50, 5:30, 6:20, 7:15, 9:05, 9:40pm
Beowulf: 12:40, 1:30, 3:30, 4:15, 6:15, 7:05, 9:00, 9:45
****Beowulf* (Special 3-D attraction):** 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
Dan in Real Life: 9:15pm
****Enchanted:*** 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15
Fred Claus: 12:10, 12:55, 3:05, 3:50, 6:00, 6:40, 9:45
****Hitman:*** 12:00, 1:50, 2:35, 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20
****The Mist:*** 12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25
****No Country for Old Men:*** 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
****This Christmas:*** 12:55, 1:40, 3:50, 4:35, 6:45, 7:30, 9:40, 10:35

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.* $10 "special event" ticket prices apply to Indian films.
****Aaja Nachle:*** Fri, 3:00, 6:30, 9:45; Sat, 3:00, 6:00; Sun, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:30, 8:30
American Gangster: Fri, 3:25, 4:25, 7:20, 7:55, 8:55; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:25, 4:25, 7:20, 7:55, 8:55; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:25, 4:25, 7:20, 7:55, 8:55
****Awake:*** Fri, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15
Bee Movie: Fri, 3:20, 4:30, 5:10, 6:10, 6:55, 7:35, 8:30, 9:35, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 1:50, 2:35, 3:20, 4:30, 5:10, 6:10, 6:55, 7:35, 8:30, 9:35, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:20, 4:30, 5:10, 6:10, 6:55, 7:35, 8:30, 9:35, 10:20
Fred Claus: Fri, 3:05, 3:55, 6:05, 7:10, 9:00, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:55, 3:05, 3:55, 6:05, 7:10, 9:00, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:05, 3:55, 6:05, 7:10, 9:00, 10:10
****Gone Baby Gone:*** 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 3:00, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 3:00, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:00, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 9:30
****No Country for Old Men:*** Fri, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05; Mon-Tue, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05
****Takkari Donga:*** Sat, 9:00pm
30 Days of Night: 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
****This Christmas:*** Fri, 3:10, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:05, 3:10, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:15, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/6), 3:10, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:15, 10:00
Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?: Fri, 4:05, 7:25, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:05, 7:25, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/6), 4:05, 7:25, 9:55

WESTGATE 11 *South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
American Gangster: 1:00, 4:25, 8:10
August Rush: 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
Awake: Fri-Tue, 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10; Wed, 12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 8:00, 10:20; Thu (12/6), 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10
Bee Movie: 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15
Beowulf: 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
****Enchanted:*** 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Fred Claus: 11:55am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15pm
Hitman: Fri-Tue, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40; Wed, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 10:15; Thu (12/6), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40
The Mist: 12:40, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: 11:50am, 2:05, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00pm
No Country for Old Men: 12:50, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55

- ***An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.***
- ***Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.***

For updated showtimes, see **austinchronicle.com/film.**

✪ THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Conventional wisdom states that by the third movie in any series, lead characters have long since given up any psychological relevance, and plots have become mere retreads. Which makes *The Bourne Ultimatum* – the third in the Robert Ludlum-penned series about Jason Bourne (Damon), the rogue CIA spook with impossibly broad shoulders and the memory of a goldfish – such an achievement. Director Greengrass bests his own excellent *The Bourne Supremacy*, creating a true action thriller that's far closer to art than it probably has any right to be. Episode three finds Bourne still struggling to reconstruct his identity while bringing down elaborate conspiracies percolating among the higher-ups in the American intelligence community. He doesn't know his real name; he can't remember why he is where he is or why he does what he does. And – unkindest cut of all! – he can't remember that he used to schtup Julia Stiles. *(08/03/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★½ Movies 8

THE COMEBACKS

D: Tom Brady; with David Koechner, Carl Weathers, Melora Hardin, Matt Lawrence, Brooke Nevin, Nick Searcy, George Back, Noureen DeWulf, Jesse Garcia. (PG-13, 84 min.)

Years from now, when *The Comebacks* has long since been forgotten, one brief scene might be remembered for being a parody of a parody. The fact that *The Comebacks* makes fun of another sports parody, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*, doesn't make it a good movie, but it does say something about the pilfering, postmodern, post-ironic age of cinema we live in. The film follows Lambeau Fields (Koechner), a football coach with an unblemished record of failure who comes out of retirement to lead a group of lovable losers (the fat guy, the geek, the beautiful girl, the star quarterback with the drunken, disillusioned father) to glory. Along the way, it tries to skewer *Field of Dreams*, *Miracle*, *Remember the Titans*, and every other sports film made in the last 20 years (with extra cleavage and excrement humor thrown in for effect). *(10/26/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*

★ Movies 8

✪ CONTROL

D: Anton Corbijn; with Sam Riley, Samantha Morton, Toby Kebbell, Alexandra Maria Lara, Joe Anderson, James Anthony Pearson, Harry Treadaway, Craig Parkinson. (R, 121 min.)

Control, Corbijn's narrative portrait of Joy Division's suicidal singer, Ian Curtis, is easily one of the finest films ever made about the collision of music, madness, and the human heart. Curtis (Riley) hung himself in the flat he shared with his estranged wife, Deborah (Morton), when he was 23 years old, and Joy Division was on the eve of its first American tour. Remarkable in temper and tone, poise and performance, *Control* transcends its punk and post-punk biographical underpinnings by virtue of its sullenly hopeful narrative. Shot in crisp black and white that mirrors the band's grim downbeats and Manchester's grimy brick-and-cobble avenues and alleyways, *Control* never overexplains its subject. Corbijn had the good fortune to photograph Joy Division back in the day, and his actors – Anderson, Pearson, Treadaway, and Riley – posing as bandmates perform all of Joy Division's songs with astonishing fidelity. *(11/09/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*

★★★★½ Dobie

DAN IN REAL LIFE

D: Peter Hedges; with Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, Dane Cook, Alison Pill, Brittany Robertson, Marlene Lawston, Dianne Wiest, John Mahoney, Emily Blunt, Norbert Leo Butz. (PG-13, 99 min.)

If this is "real life," then count me out. It's not that there's anything terribly awful with it; it's just that what passes for real life here is as genially inoffensive and predictable as the average TV sitcom. More had been hoped for in this second writer/director project from Hedges. His previous effort, *Pieces of April*, followed a similar trajectory of family entanglement, though the characters had more edge and personality than they do in *Dan in Real Life*. Hedges also wrote the screenplays for *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* and *About a Boy*, other works whose distinctive characters stand apart from mediocrity. This new film will garner Hedges his big-

gest audience, and let's hope that it allows him to return to his more quirkily crafted characterizations. Carell is in his subdued, *Little Miss Sunshine* serio-comic mode here as a widower who falls in love with the girlfriend (Binoche) of his brother (Cook). *(10/26/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North

THE DARJEELING LIMITED

D: Wes Anderson; with Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Anjelica Huston, Amara Karan, Wally Wolodarsky, Bill Murray, Irfan Khan. (R, 91 min.)

With his fifth feature film, Anderson boards another train of ironic whimsy, although this time the train is quite literal. An aura of preciousness remains as the filmmaker again pairs his stylized images and storytelling with characters and a plot that resist neat categorizations, twins narrative events with telling pieces of music, and searches for emotional connections among ironically detached characters. Brothers Francis (Wilson), Peter (Brody), and Jack (Schwartzman) Whitman, who have been apart since their father's death a year ago, embark on a train ride through India as something of a reunion tour and spiritual journey. Somewhere near the end of the journey is their aloof mother (Huston), a nun in a Himalayan outpost. Like the Whitman Sampler they are, each brother is marked by a unique bundle of quirky traits. In large measure, the film is a basic road picture, enhanced by compelling characters and atmosphere but reluctant to really go anywhere. *(10/12/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Dobie, Metropolitan

DRAGON WARS: D-WAR

D: Hyung-rae Shim; with Jason Behr, Amanda Brooks, Robert Forster, Aimee Garcia, Craig Robinson. (PG-13, 90 min.)

This South Korean pseudo-epic is some of the most ambitious crap I've ever seen. So much so, that a mere 10 minutes in, you're likely to be scratching your head, as I was, over the complex mythological backstory. Once shorn of its scaly, historical underpinnings, the plot goes something like this: There are good dragons and bad; both types are divine in nature and in need of two separate humans (Behr and Brooks) to render them celestial. Or something. None of that matters a lick, however, once the actual dragon combat begins: *D-War* is entertaining only when the giant monsters are onscreen. Scores of CGI artisans labored on the film to bring the dragons to life, and it shows in near-flawless sequences crowded with computer-generated action. But then a real, flesh-and-blood human being will wander into frame and spoil the whole illusion. Nuts to that. *(09/21/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★½ Movies 8

ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)

It's difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing's for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she's perfectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maiden. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love before she is cast out by a jealous queen (Sarandon) and lands in the center of Times Square. What's more, she's no longer animated. Though writer Bill Kelly's script takes extreme liberties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sardonic fairy tale. *(11/23/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



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FRI, NOV 30	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 420 700 940 MIDNIGHT THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 715 INTO THE WILD 330 MASTER PANCAKE: ROADHOUSE 945 MIDNIGHT
SAT, DEC 1	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 100 400 405 700 NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 940 MIDNIGHT THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 715 INTO THE WILD 1245
SUN, DEC 2	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 100 400 700 940 THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 400 1000 INTO THE WILD 1245 CINEMATEXAS VIKING FUNERAL: FROWNLAND 700
MON, DEC 3	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 400 700 940 RRIICCEE w/ LIVE MUSIC feat. VINCENT GALLO ◆ 945 THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 430 715
TUES, DEC 4	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 400 700 940 THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 430 945 AFS ESSENTIAL: LE VENT DE LA NUIT 700
WEDS, DEC 5	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 400 940 THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 400 DIONYSIUM 700 THE PUBLIC ENEMY with WHITE GHOST SHIVERS LIVE 930 DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW MIDNIGHT FREE WEIRD WEDS: SWITCHBLADE SISTERS MIDNIGHT
THU, DEC 6	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 400 700 940 THE WHOLE SHOOTIN MATCH 430 ARMY OF DARKNESS QUOTEALONG 700 90s ONE-HIT WONDERS SINGALONG 945 FREE TERROR THURS: THE VISITOR Extended Cut! MIDNIGHT

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LARS & THE REAL GIRL		1115*	150*	430*	725*	1010
ROMANCE & CIGARETTES		1120*	210*	445	730	1005
AMERICAN GANGSTER			1145*	315	705	1045
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AMERICAN GANGSTER	1130*	300	645	1015
I'M NOT THERE	1210*	335	715	1020
THE MIST	1240*	355	720	1025
FRED CLAUS	1245*	350	655*	950
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TV at the ALAMO: HEROES	715		(Mon)	

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CONTROL
Fri: (4:10) 7:00, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:10) 7:00, 9:50; Mon–Thur: 7:00, 9:50
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FRED CLAUS

D: David Dobkin; with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Spacey. (PG, 115 min.)

How many laughs can one movie try to squeeze out of Vaughn being attacked by elves? Sadly, it's an awful lot. Vaughn plays Fred, the embittered older brother of the sainted (literally) Nicholas "Santa" Claus (Giamatti). Trading in jolly for neurotic, Giamatti's Santa possesses a self-deprecating everyman demeanor that makes him a brilliant actor. Meanwhile, Vaughn exploits a schtick that plays well with an ensemble (*Old School*) or in a supporting role (*Mr. and Mrs. Smith*) but cannot carry the comedy of an entire movie. Awash with amazingly talented actors, including Spacey as an efficiency expert, Higgins as a lovelorn elf, Richardson as Mrs. Claus, and Bates as Fred and Santa's mom, *Fred Claus* is sadly just an early lump of coal under the tree. *(11/09/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE GAME PLAN

D: Andy Fickman; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Madison Pettis, Kyra Sedgwick. (PG, 110 min.)

How's this for a movie slogan: "The Rock Cries!" Maybe it doesn't have the same ring to it that "Garbo Laughs!" did when *Ninotchka* was first released in 1939, but dammit if it isn't something remarkable seeing a professional wrestler put away his muscles and turn on the waterworks. It's like watching middle-American machismo itself wilt in your hand. The reason the Rock is crying is because he's playing a self-centered superstar football quarterback whose perfectly empty, materialistic little life is being turned upside down by an 8-year-old daughter (the absurdly doe-eyed Pettis) he didn't know he had. *The Game Plan* was written by two women, Nichole Millard and Kathryn Price, and their female take on the world of professional football – though ridiculous – gives their movie a comic flavor that is refreshingly free of the masculine chest-bumping that defines other football films (and football in general). *(09/28/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Metropolitan

GONE BABY GONE

D: Ben Affleck; with Casey Affleck, Morgan Freeman, Ed Harris, Michelle Monaghan, Amy Ryan. (R, 114 min.)

Affleck's feature directing debut is strong on atmospherics and moral quandaries. Based on a novel by Dennis Lehane, the novelist who also penned *Mystic River*, Affleck's film is a companion in dark mood to that 2003 award-winning film adaptation. *Gone Baby Gone* is a story that seems to gurgle up from the streets of the working-class Boston neighborhood in which it is set. The director's brother, Casey, stars as Patrick Kenzie, a private investigator who's assisting a police investigation searching for a 4-year-old girl who's been missing for three days. The mystery appears to be solved around the film's halfway point, yet a stray comment eats at Patrick, and he continues to poke at the case after it's closed. The second half of the film journeys to a dark place, where the question that hovers is whether Patrick – and the audience – can handle the truth. *(10/19/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown South

GOOD LUCK CHUCK

D: Mark Helfrich; with Dane Cook, Jessica Alba, Dan Fogler, Lonny Ross. (R, 96 min.)

Pitched somewhere between Farrelly brothers-lite and some oddball *National Lampoon* outing, *Good Luck Chuck* is as familiar as it is charming, which isn't to say it's a good film. Far from it. A curse, which renders Charlie (Cook) unable to maintain a meaningful (or otherwise) relationship with women (who then go on to find their true Mr. Right the moment they dump poor Chuck), may be the engine that propels the story, but it's Cook and Alba's creepy chemistry that makes the film tolerable. She's Cam, a penguin-obsessed zoo worker, who meets cute with Charlie at a mutual friend's wedding. Strangely, amid the mediocrity and gross-out gags, there's some genuine comic talent, most notably from Cook and Fogler. Alba, for her part, mines the screwball comedy slapstick with pratfalls galore, though it's still tough to buy her, as the film asks us to, as a completely disjointed klutz. *(09/21/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★ Movies 8

The Whole Shootin' Match



***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** *D: Eagle Pennell; with Lou Perryman, Sonny Carl Davis, Doris Hargrave. (NR, 101 min.)* This debut film by Pennell, the Texas filmmaker who died in 2002, was made back in the years before making movies in Texas was considered cool. Recently restored, this talky, slice-of-life comedy focuses on two over-the-hill dreamers. The film made quite a splash in the burgeoning independent film world, winning praise from the hard-to-please critic Vincent Canby, the Sundance-founding actor/director Robert Redford, and the future maestro of talk cinema Richard Linklater. See "A Second Shot at 'Shootin' Match,'" p.56, for story and interview with Perryman and Davis. Members of the cast and crew will be present at the 4pm screening on Sunday (12/2) for a Q&A. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Friday-Saturday, 7:15pm; Sunday, 4, 10pm; Monday, 4:30, 7:15pm; Tuesday, 4:30, 9:45pm; Wednesday, 4pm; Thursday (12/06), 4:30pm.

✪ THE HEARTBREAK KID

D: Peter Farrelly, Bobby Farrelly; with Ben Stiller, Michelle Monaghan, Malin Akerman, Jerry Stiller, Rob Corddry, Carlos Mencia, Danny McBride, Scott Wilson. (R, 115 min.)

This is a smart and winning remake of a 1972 Neil Simon-penned Elaine May film. Eddie (Stiller) meets and falls madly in love with Lila (Akerman), and before long, they're hitched and honeymooning in Cabo, where, to his dawning dismay, Eddie discovers why Match.com might not have been such a bad idea after all. Soon he meets the sweetly self-effacing Miranda (Monaghan), and suddenly it's love at first Jose Cuervo. But what to do about the sun-blown sex bomb upstairs? The Farrelly brothers have always leavened their gross-out strain of humor with a genuine affection for humanity's romantic foibles, and they restrain their more prurient inclinations even further here. This is a Farrelly film for adults, if not the entire family, and it's a charmer. Stiller varies his hapless Jew schtick just enough to make Eddie a wholly believable (and ultimately sympathetic, if inadvertent) heartbreaker, and the entire production is marked by stellar comic performances. *(10/05/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Movies 8

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it's also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel's moribund *XXX* character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited director Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as "What the hell?" since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko's generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

✪ I'M NOT THERE

D: Todd Haynes; with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Bruce Greenwood, Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore. (R, 135 min.)

"I don't belong to anybody," goes a verse from the titular song, which may very well be the point, or at least one of them, in a film that was "inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan." Nobody here's named Bob, per se, but we get six incarnations that represent cycles in the life of the artist formally known as Robert Zimmerman. Physically, Blanchett bears the closest resemblance to Dylan, and she's great, of course, but the emotional guts of *I'm Not There* belong to Ledger and Gainsbourg. The only interlude that, if not fails, certainly flags, is Gere's sad-clown Billy the Kid. Haynes' piece doesn't always make sense (and goes on too long by 20 minutes), but, damn, it looks good – and feels good. After the Oscar "legitimacy" of *Far From Heaven*, Haynes could've burrowed deeper underground or sold out entirely: Instead, he's created a dazzling hybrid. There's an undeniable thrill to watching something so experimental and yet totally accessible to those of us who speak only layman's Dylanese, and it's Haynes' warmest film yet. *(11/23/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Dobie

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. *(10/19/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor

✪ LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

D: Craig Gillespie; with Ryan Gosling, Emily Mortimer, Paul Schneider, Patricia Clarkson, Kelli Garner. (PG-13, 106 min.)

It takes a village not only to raise a child but also, in this case, to aid the delusional and help restore good mental health. This movie's premise is high concept and would be easy to dismiss were the film not so flawlessly executed. The screenplay by *Six Feet Under*'s Nancy Oliver mimics some of that show's tonal implausibilities, which nevertheless succeed here despite the odds. Gosling again displays his exacting commitment to characterization as Lars, a painfully reticent young man who shocks his family and community when he introduces them to the wheelchair-bound Bianca, a lifelike sex doll with whom he forges a chaste romantic relationship. Despite abundant opportunities for smutty gags, the film never ventures down this path, staying on its best behavior in matters of courtship and film ratings. The pitch-perfect delivery of the entire cast cannot be overstated, as their performances keep the film from straying into absurd or sickly sweet dimensions. *(10/26/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Gateway

✪ LIONS FOR LAMBS

D: Robert Redford; with Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise, Derek Luke, Andrew Garfield, Michael Peña, Peter Berg. (R, 92 min.)

"Wake up, America!" That's the fervent call to action in *Lions for Lambs*, a well-intentioned and often nervy critique of America's current complacency during a time of war. It's also a bold film, structurally speaking, in that it's little more than three interwoven stories in which two characters are simply engaged in a conversation. Even though there's little action in the visceral sense, *Lions for Lambs* can be captivating, especially in the vigorous give-and-take exchange in the senator's office about the failings of our country's leadership and the popular press with respect to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cruise's controlled acting style works well in the role of a powerful man doing his best to sell a tough bill of goods, while Streep (as usual) is nothing short of miraculous as the reporter who must acknowledge her own complicity for today's political state of affairs. The other two segments are less captivating (though never boring). *(11/09/2007)* – *Steve Davis*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Gateway

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA

D: Mike Newell; with Javier Bardem, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, John Leguizamo, Hector Elizondo, Fernanda Montenegro, Liev Schreiber, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Laura Harring, Unax Ugalde. (R, 140 min.)

It's a testament to the talents of Bardem that he can currently be seen as both one of the most romantic heroes in modern fiction (Florentino Ariza in *Love in the Time of Cholera*) and one of the most violently sociopathic (Chigurh in *No Country for Old Men*). Sadly, the former performance cannot save what is otherwise a painful mess. Adapted from Gabriel García Márquez's masterpiece, the film stays true to the novel's story. Set primarily in Cartagena, Colombia, one century ago, the movie follows the unrequited obsessive love of Florentino over the span of 50 years. Director Newell and writer Ronald Harwood adapt Márquez's work quite literally, and the effect is stifling. Trying (where Márquez succeeds) to convey romance, social commentary, and comedy, the film becomes funny when it's supposed to be serious, confusing when it's supposed to be poetic, and awkward when it's supposed to be romantic. Every twist is a near miss. *(11/16/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

★½ Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan

THE MIST

D: Frank Darabont; with Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden, Andre Braugher, Laurie Holden, Toby Jones, William Sadler, Frances Sternhagen, Jeffrey DeMunn, Alexa Davalos, Nathan Gamble. (R, 127 min.)

The Mist is a horror film with a message. Extended passages pause the action to preach and demonstrate the dark impulses of irrationality, magical thinking, and mob mentality. Sadly, these interludes only take away from the magnificent moments in which the stunningly crafted beasties in the mist (credit visual-effects supervisor Everett Burrell and creature design and make-up-effects artist Greg Nicotero) come out to prey. Darabont has made an old-fashioned scary movie that uses a B-name movie cast (minus Harden) as set-piece fodder: victims and antagonists of the film's menacing creepy-crawlies. And, man alive! *The Mist*'s grossly tentacled who-knows-whats and giant flying insect thingees are as shuddersome as they come. Unlike Stephen King, upon whose novella the film is based, Darabont ends this story with a dropkick to the cerebellum, a change from the original that shocks the viewer and leaves little doubt that Darabont thinks we're all headed to hell in a handbasket. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

D: Steve Bendelack; with Rowan Atkinson, Emma de Caunes, Max Baldry, Willem Dafoe, Karel Roden. (G, 88 min.)

If you like Atkinson's Mr. Bean character – his tooty yellow Mini, his busily working beetle brows, his tendency to point and grunt and eat shellfish whole – then you will be rewarded with 88 minutes of such. If you are not a fan, *Holiday* will not win you. Not even with its references to Jacques Tati, not even with Bean's French moppet of a



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'Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud'



"Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud" (1985) **Cinematexas Viking Funeral.** Haynes' college thesis project is a clear precursor to his new Dylan nonbiopic *I'm Not There*. For more info, see "When There's Nothing Left to Burn ...," p.55. @501 Studios Theater, Saturday, 9:15pm; free.

The Wind of the Night



***The Wind of the Night* (1999)** *D: Philippe Garrel; with Catherine Deneuve, Daniel Duval, Xavier Beauvois, Jacques Lassalle. (NR, 95 min.)* **Austin Film Society: French Maverick, Rebel Auteur – Four Films of Philippe Garrel.** John Cale provides the original music for this road movie which stars Deneuve as a married and older woman in an affair with a younger man. For more on the series, see **austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid:563644**. @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 7pm; $4, AFS members free.

traveling sidekick (Baldry), not even with the winsome young actress (de Caunes) with whom Bean has a thankfully chaste attraction. At the end of the day, it's either funny when Bean chases a chicken to get back his bus ticket, or it isn't, and you know where you stand. Certainly Atkinson's flair for being Bean has not diminished, but in the final analysis, this *Holiday* is a so-so late-summer diversion, unlikely to reignite Beanmania – or repeat the previous film's boffo box office. *(08/24/2007)* – *Marrit Ingman*
★★ Movies 8

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for child-like eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he's come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy, 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills), and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning he's lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and jigging and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film's one saving grace is Bateman. *(11/16/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★½ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MR. WOODCOCK

D: Craig Gillespie; with Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott, Susan Sarandon, Amy Poehler, Ethan Suplee, Melissa Sagemiller, Jacob Davich. (PG-13, 87 min.)

Mr. Woodcock is the third in Thornton's unofficial "exhausted-contempt" series (*Bad Santa*, *Bad News Bears*), in which he plays the title character, a legendary bullying gym teacher in small-town Nebraska. The movie begins 13 years ago, with Woodcock badgering a group of early-adolescent boys, including John Farley (Scott), who commits the cardinal gym-class sins of being overweight and unable to do a pull-up. Thirteen years later, John writes self-help books about letting go of your past and moving on with your life. Of course, John hasn't let go of anything, which is made painfully clear when he returns home to Nebraska to find out that his mother (Sarandon) is engaged to Woodcock. *Mr. Woodcock* is funny for exactly five minutes. That subversive humor that helped turn Thornton into the unforgivably awful SOB exposes the rest of the film – with its focus on Scott's self-pity and paper-thin frat humor – as a half-hearted retread. *(09/14/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Movies 8

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre conflations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with $2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps into the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. *(11/16/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

RATATOUILLE

D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano, Ian Holm, Janeane Garofalo, Brian Dennehy, Peter O'Toole, Brad Garrett. (G, 110 min.)

Director Bird knows that a good film, animated or otherwise, lives and dies on the narrative crux; you can match-move, motion-track-capture-and-control characters from now until Walt Disney defrosts, but a visual marvel minus a human emotion is like a sunset unseen. *Ratatouille* is the story of a young rat named Remy (voiced by Oswalt), who longs to leave behind the gauche comestibles that feed his breed in favor of creating his own haute cuisine in the culinary capital of the world: Paris! Via some extremely clever narrative maneuvering, Remy succeeds, sort of, by entering into a *Cyrano de Bergerac*-style partnership with Linguini (Romano), a trod-upon garbage boy at a former four-star restaurant. Linguini discovers both his way and his spine through Remy's olfactory magic and a flirtation with the cook Colette (Garofalo). Pixar's animation is simply flawless: colorful, deeply realized, and ably conveying both the chaos of the kitchen and the sensual allure of food well prepared. *(06/29/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Movies 8

SAW IV

D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Scott Patterson, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell, Lyriq Bent, Athena Karkanis. (R, 108 min.)

The series' increasingly outlandish forays into the mindset of Rube Goldberg's evil twin Jigsaw (Bell), coupled with the ante-upping characterization of amoral madness in the service of moral redemption – corkscrew logic, but always sensibly lunatic – have made for some downright existential bloodbathing. Jigsaw died in *Saw III* and here we get to witness his autopsy, stem to stern, thus giving him not only the last gasp and laugh, but Being and Nothingness as well. More than most, the *Saw* films have held fast to an internal logic that only gets more complex – yet never entirely lapses into outright inanity – with each successive episodic outrage. *Saw IV* finally offers Jigsaw's horrific backstory in flashback, an unnecessary denuding that absolves no one, least of all this fleshless engineer and his hellbound heart. Redemption, absolution, morality: The *Saw* films speak truth to horror. Torture, you may recall, used to be an unparsable, unpardonable sin. Now it's porn. *(11/02/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★½ Metropolitan

SUPERBAD

D: Greg Mottola; with Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Emma Stone, Martha MacIsaac, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader. (R, 114 min.)

Lately, producer Judd Apatow and his buddies have made comedies for a certain age group, not ones for the ages. Luckily, *Superbad* comes a little closer. The comedy is full of saturated one-liners, cute nicknames, quirky period details, neat turns of phrase, beery bons mots, colloquialisms, and ironic gangsta slang. The drama is all in Cera's tone and Hill's expression. It doesn't hurt that the film's credits are filled with *Arrested Development* refugees, including Mottola. Cera spins gold with every line throughout; Hill fulfills his fat-kid birthright as a gifted physical comedian. Mintz-Plasse, whose voice breaks every time he talks in his debut, is a fine sideman. There are drags: Scenes often go on too long in confined settings, the film threatens to collapse with every gag that falls flat, and the supporting cast is spotty. But mostly *Superbad* is as soulful and funky as its soundtrack. *(08/17/2007)* – *Shawn Badgley*
★★★½ Movies 8

THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE

D: Susanne Bier; with Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro, David Duchovny, Alexis Llewellyn, Micah Berry, John Carroll Lynch, Alison Lohman, Robin Weigert. (R, 119 min.)

Somehow, with *Things We Lost in the Fire*, Del Toro has managed to top even himself; this most recent performance is right up there with the best screen turns of all time. In Danish director Bier's excellent film, Del Toro plays Jerry Sunborne, a forty-something junkie living in squalor who's forced to re-examine his life after the violent death of his best and only friend, Steven Burke (Duchovny). Burke's wife, Audrey (Berry), never trusted Jerry even when her husband was alive, but she decides to call on him after realizing that raising two kids alone in her emotional state may be an impossible task. *Things We Lost in the Fire* is Bier's first English-language film and her follow-up to the Oscar-nominated *After the Wedding*, and like that film, it's an impeccably constructed and perfectly paced drama of domestic and internal volatility. Berry is also brilliant here, drifting from agony to wonder and down into despair with ease. *(10/19/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★★★ Movies 8

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

D: David Slade; with Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Ben Foster, Danny Huston, Manu Bennett, Craig Hall, Joel Tobeck. (R, 113 min.)

Adapted from Steve Niles' graphic novel, this film's high-concept stroke of genius lies not with its vampire clan but with the setting: the tiny hamlet of Barrow, Alaska, where residents do indeed experience the title's lengthy nightfall. On the eve of this yearly perma-night, Sheriff Eben Oleson (Hartnett) incarcerates a ratty, possibly insane drifter (Foster), who has arrived, Renfield-like, to herald the coming of far worse. Cut off from the outside world by the naturally inclement weather and wholly unnatural sabotage, the sheriff and a handful of Barrow's citizenry (including George as his estranged wife, Stella) are systematically attacked by the vampires. So much so that they're eventually forced to hole up in squalid attics and crawl spaces, able to do little more than peek out the windows and wait for the faraway sunrise. At its core, *30 Days of Night* is a siege Western relocated to the frozen North. *(10/19/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Tinseltown South

THIS CHRISTMAS

D: Preston A. Whitmore II; with Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Chris Brown, Columbus Short, Keith Robinson, Laz Alonso, Regina King, Mekhi Phifer, Sharon Leal, Lauren London. (PG-13, 117 min.)

I have to ask: What could possibly explain the presence of two first-rate actors like Lindo and Elba in a movie as bland as *This Christmas*? They star in this glorified TV movie about an estranged family reuniting after four years to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Elba plays the Whitfield family's prodigal son, who decides it would be best to go home for Christmas after a run-in with two impatient bookies forces him to leave town with little more than the leather cap on his head. He arrives home to find most of his family members living lives of not-so-quiet desperation. Add to the mix a couple of extended all-family dance sequences in the living room, and a soundtrack composed of jazzed-up Christmas carols that will make you feel like you're trapped in a shopping mall, and you've got the perfect formula for holiday cheer: It's redemption through sentimentality, salvation through schmaltz. *(11/23/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED?

D: Tyler Perry; with Tyler Perry, Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Jill Scott, Richard T. Jones, Tasha Smith, Michael Jai White, Denise Boutte, Lamman Rucker. (PG-13, 118 min.)

In this latest effort, Perry characteristically presents himself in quadruple-threat-style as writer, director, producer, and actor. While his last film (*Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls*) focused on one couple, this one branches out into four. Jackson plays a psychologist who vacations every winter with a group of close friends, all married couples and all dealing with much drama. As the couples vacation together, emotions run amok, dirt gets thrown, and purportedly, we all learn a little bit more about the true meaning of marriage. But frankly, I think I learned more about the true meaning of contrived melodrama. Take one abusive relationship, add some infidelity, a dead child, a mountain of guilt, several fur coats, a cat fight or two, and you've got yourself one hell of a melodramatic throwdown. And Perry follows these rules to the letter. *(10/19/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*
★ Millennium, Tinseltown South

UNDERDOG

D: Frederik Du Chau; with Peter Dinklage, James Belushi, Patrick Warburton, Alex Neuberger, Taylor Momsen; with the voices of Jason Lee, Amy Adams, Brad Garrett. (PG, 84 min.)

Disney's big-screen vehicle for Joe Harris' kitschy 1964 series has real live dogs, but it's pretty much a cartoon and not a very kitschy one. To say that the technology used to make movie dogs talk has improved is not to endorse its use, yet I never doubted that Lee's voice was emanating from the rather charming beagle who has been green-screened with a swirling cape and stoic expression. The dog, Shoeshine, escapes the animal-testing experiments of a mad dwarf (Dinklage) and meets Jack (Neuberger), Disney's newest motherless child. The elements of the film don't quite mesh: The villains are cartoony, but Du Chau aims for soggy family drama in his father-son story. In many ways, it's as perfunctory as a family movie can get. But somehow Lee sells it, with an amiable, game-for-whatever performance that is better than it has to be. *(08/10/2007)* – *Marrit Ingman*
★★ Movies 8

The Public Enemy



***The Public Enemy* (1931)** *D: William Wellman; with James Cagney, Eddie Woods, Jean Harlow, Mae Clarke, Joan Blondell. (NR, 84 min.)* **Movies & Music.** Celebrate Repeal Day, when Prohibition came to an end, with a screening of this classic template for all future American gangster movies. The White Ghost Shivers will perform a set before the movie and a post-party will continue at Mugshots (courtesy of Dewar's White Label Scotch). (*) @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 9:30pm; $15.

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-J. HOBERMAN, *VILLAGE VOICE*

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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: **austinchronicle.com/film.**

THURSDAY 29

***Army of Darkness* Quote-Along (1993)** *D: Sam Raimi; with Bruce Campbell, Embeth Davidtz. (R, 81 min.)* @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

***Showgirls* 2.0 (1995)** *D: Paul Verhoeven; with Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan, Gina Gershon. (NC-17, 97 min.)* The infamous movie will screen along with a live commentary from David Schmader, a Seattle writer and columnist for *The Stranger*, who is billed as the world's foremost authority on the film. He will argue for its being the best "worst movie ever made." For more info, see **www.drafthouse.com**. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; $12.

***Sorority House Massacre* (1986)** *D: Carol Frank; with Angela O'Neill, Wendy Martel, Pamela Ross, Nicole Rio. (R, 86 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** A girl feels empathy for a murderer who turns out to be her brother. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***Zombies vs. Satan* (2003)** *D: Adam Minarovich; with Minarovich, Jeremy Busbee, Catherine Brissey, Stewart Adamo. (NR, 110 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** Hitmen transport corpses and a new drug to Miami and run into hillbilly zombies. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

SPACES

***God Is Brazilian* (2002)** *D: Carlos Diegues; with Antônio Fagundes, Wagner Moura, Paloma Duarte. (NR, 110 min.)* **Latin American Film Series.** God decides to take a vacation. (*) @MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm.

***Marrakech Express* (1989)** *D: Gabriele Salvatores; with Diego Abatantuono, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Cristina Marsillach, Giuseppe Cederna, Gigio Alberti, Massimo Venturiello. (NR, 110 min.)* **Il Circolo Italiano.** From the director of the Oscar-winning *Mediterraneo*. No subtitles. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm.

***My Young Auntie* (1981)** *D: Lau Kar-Leung; with Kar-Leung, Kara Hui, Gordon Liu. (NR, 121 min.)* **Austin Kung Fu Academy.** Hui won the Best Actress award at the 1981 Hong Kong Film Awards for her role in this action comedy. @Austin Java (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

***Ocean's Thirteen* (2007)** *D: Steven Soderbergh; with Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Al Pacino, Elliott Gould, Don Cheadle, Ellen Barkin, Shaobo Qin. (PG-13, 122 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 30

***Road House* (1989)** *D: Rowdy Herrington; with Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott, Ben Gazzara. (R, 114 min.)* **Master Pancake Theater.** This time the Pancake cutups hurl their commentary at one of the easiest-to-ridicule films ever, in which Swayze plays an itinerant Zen bouncer. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45, 12mid; $12.50, $10.50 students/seniors/AFS members.

***Scrooged* (1988)** *D: Richard Donner; with Bill Murray, Karen Allen, John Forsythe, John Glover, Bobcat Goldthwait, David Johansen, Carol Kane, Robert Mitchum. (PG-13, 101 min.)* Murray plays a hard-hearted TV executive who visits his past, present, and future Christmases, à la Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and discovers the error of his ways with the help of a large coterie of cameo players. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** See p.90.

SATURDAY 01

***Road House* (1989)** @Alamo Ritz, 9:45, 12mid; $12.50, $10.50 students/seniors/AFS members. (See Fri., 11/30.)

***The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)** *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info see **www.austinrocky.org**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

***Scrooged* (1988)** @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid. (See Fri., 11/30.)

***Takkari Donga* (2002)** *D: Jayant Paranji; with Mahesh Babu, Lisa Ray, Bipasha Basu, Rahul Dev. (NR)* This Telegu-language film is inspired by cowboy Westerns. @Tinseltown South, 9pm.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 7:15pm. See p.90.

SPACES

"Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud" (1985) Cinematexas Viking Funeral. See p.92.

Ragna-Rock Cinematexas Viking Funeral. One of two compilations of new work by esteemed Cinematexas alumni such as James Fotopoulos, Ben Coonley, Daniel Cockburn, and Stephanie Gray. For more info, see "When There's Nothing Left to Burn ...," p.55. @501 Studios Theater, 4:30pm; free.

UT Hollywood Showcase Cinematexas Viking Funeral. A local screening of UT-produced student films by SunHee Cho, Chris McInroy, Galen Cater-Jeffrey, Keith Wilson, Maru Buendia Senties, Michael Greene, Toddy Burton, Samuel Jorgensen. For more info, see "When There's Nothing Left to Burn ...," p.55. @501 Studios Theater, 7pm; free.

SUNDAY 02

***Frownland* (2007)** *D: Ronnie Bronstein; with Dore Mann, Mary Wall, Paul Grimstad, David Sandholm. (NR, 106 min.)* **Cinematexas Viking Funeral.** The director (who will be in attendance) describes his movie as "an overripe tomato lobbed with spazmo inaccuracy at the spotless surface of the silver screen and a mad valentine to the craggy tradition of unadulterated cheapo-independent expression." The feature will screen with Don Hertzfelt's animated short "Everything Will Be OK." @Alamo Ritz, 7pm; sold out.

***St. Olaf Christmas Festival* (2007)** (NR, 150 min.) A simulcast service of hymns, carols, choral works, and orchestral selections. @Metropolitan, 3pm.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 4, 10. See p.90.

SPACES

***Elf* (2003)** *D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell, James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen, Edward Asner, Bob Newhart. (PG, 95 min.)* Dinner specials. Hosted by Jerm Pollet. (*) @Belmont, 8pm; free.

***Interkosmos* (2006)** *D: Jim Finn; with Finn, Dean DeMatteis, Nandini Khaund, Goran Milos, Ruediger van den Boom. (NR, 71 min.)* **Cinematexas Viking Funeral.** A delightfully tongue-in-cheek homage to a fictional East German space project, the film uses re-created newsreels combined with musical interludes to resurrect the Seventies in all its Brezhnev-era glory. For more info, see p.55 of this week's Screens section. @501 Studios Theater, 4:30pm; free.

***1 Giant Leap* (2002)** *D: Duncan Bridgeman and Jamie Catto. (NR, 155 min.)* **One People for Peace.** Requested donation, $10. @Bodhi Yoga, 8pm.

Ragna-Roll Cinematexas Viking Funeral. More madness from Cinematexas chums. For more info, see "When There's Nothing Left to Burn ...," p.55. @501 Studios Theater, 2pm; free.

MONDAY 03

***Heroes* TV at the Alamo.** Free, although reservations are accepted with prepurchase of a same-night $5 food and beverage voucher at **www.originalalamo.com**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

Heroes TV on the screen. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 7:15. (See p.90.)

TUESDAY 04

***Naked Boys Singing* (2007)** *D: Robert Schrock and Troy Christian; with Vincent Zamora, Jason Currie, Kevin Stea, Joe Souza, Joseph Keane, Phong Truong, Salvatore Vassallo, Andrew Blake James, Anthony Manough, Jaymes Hodges. (NR, 95 min.)* **aGLIFF.** Film version of the nude theatrical musical. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm; $12.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 9:45. See p.90.

***The Wind of the Night* (1999)** See p.92.

SPACES

***Die Hard With a Vengeance* (1995)** *D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson, Jeremy Irons, Graham Greene, Colleen Camp. (R, 128 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 05

Open Screen Night Something along the lines of an open-mic night, the Alamo's long-running Open Screen invites people to come and show their best videos (under 10 minutes in length) on the big screen. These can be self-made movies, favorite moments from home videos, bloopers, training films, or whatever you'd like to share with an audience. Any entry may be gonged after the first three minutes, but a $100 cash prize will be awarded for the favorite clip of the night. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

***The Public Enemy* (1931)** See p.92.

***Switchblade Sisters* (1975)** *D: Jack Hill; with Robbie Lee, Joanne Nail, Monica Gayle, Janice Karman, Kitty Bruce, Marlene Clark, Ahser Brauner, Chase Newhart. (R, 90 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** This nifty little movie is full of all the lurid teases,

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see **www.thestoryoftexas.com**. See Showtimes for dates and times.

***Santa vs. the Snowman 3D* (2002)** *D: John A. Davis; with the voices of Steve Oedekerk, Ben Stein, Victoria Jackson, Jonathan Winters. (G, 37 min.)* Made by the same creative team behind *Jimmy Neutron*, the movie is an entertaining kids diversion, although its hardcore sentiments may prove a bit off-putting. Voice contributions by Jonathan Winters and Ben Stein help buoy the film cartoon's humor. At the Saturday opening, visitors will get to help build a 15-foot-tall snowman. (*)

***Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure* (2007)** *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* *National Geographic* uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*)

***Texas: The Big Picture* (2003)** *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

***The Polar Express:* An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004)** *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolari, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent returns to the big screen in all its dimensions. Special opening-day kids activities will take place on Saturday. (*)

***Wildfire: Feel the Heat* (1999)** *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.)* Crews put out *really big* fires around the world. Special activities from 1 to 3pm on Sunday include a team rappelling down the front of the museum and visits from Austin firefighters and Smokey the Bear.

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. **thomasallen@501studios.com**.

Arbor Reel Talks: Holly The film, a harrowing drama about child prostitution in Cambodia, concerns a Vietnamese family that sells their 12-year-old daughter over the border and an American man resolved to save her from a horrific fate. Before this showing, a representative of the Coalition Against Victims of Human Trafficking will be on hand to discuss the realities of the film and what can be done to prevent such trafficking. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7pm. Arbor Cinema @ Great Hills, 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.*

Is What You Think You Know About the Business Really True? Find out at veteran Hollywood writer David Petersen's Ten Myths About Hollywood. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm. The Unitarian Universalist Church, 4900 Grover. $35.* **www.scriptguy2.com**.

Reel Women's Big Holiday Party includes happy-hour drink prices all night long, free snack foods, DJ'd music, dancing, and unmatched networking and mingling opportunities at this second annual holiday shindig. Also: A raffle, a silent auction, and a drive to collect new or very gently used warm socks, gloves, hats, and blankets for those who need them. *Mon., Dec. 3, 7-11pm. Hi-Lo, 301 W. Sixth. $5.* **www.reelwomen.org**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. *322-0145.* **www.austinstudios.org**.

Screenwriting Classes: Who Are Those Guys? is a four-week workshop on developing characters with depth and realism, taught by longtime Hollywood writer and script analyst David Petersen. *Dec. 1-22. Saturdays, 1-3:30pm. The Unitarian Universalist Church, 4900 Grover.* **www.scriptguy2.com**.

Spring Classes With Kat Candler Script to Screen Workshop covers all aspects of filmmaking. *Jan. 22-April 22. Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm*. **Teen Filmmaking Workshop**. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm*. Register now; see the Austin Film School website for details. **www.austinfilmschool.org**.

SXSW Film Festival 2008 Call for Entries For films in the following categories: Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Documentary Short, Animated Short, Experimental Short, and Music Video. To qualify as a short, your film must be 40 minutes or less; experimental shorts are those without a narrative thread. Submission price is $35 for shorts and $45 for features. See their website for details. Deadline: *Dec. 7*. **2008.sxsw.com/film/festival/submit**.

The Screenplay Workshop: New Course Available Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is registering students for a new course, Screenwriting According to the Masters. You'll take a film assigned for outside viewing weekly and examine it from the perspective of its screenplay. Each class consists of a combination of lecture, film-clip viewing, and in-class writing exercises, taught by a professional screenwriter. *Through Dec. 12. Wednesdays 7-9pm. $240*. **www.thescreenplayworkshop.org**.

off-the-cuff production values, and trenchant topicality that make exploitation movies the fascinating cultural time capsules they are. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 4pm. See p.90.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Charley Grapewin, Munchkins. (G, 101 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** Find out whether there's really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

***Last Call for Tacos* (2007)** *D: Vishwanand V. Shetti. (NR, 83 min.)* Feature film is based on the life of María Cobalán of Taco Xpress and includes music by Alejandro Escovedo, Steve Bruton, and Guy Forsyth. @Maria's Taco Xpress, 6:30pm.

***Toy Story* (1995)** *D: John Lasseter; with Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Don Rickles, Jim Varney, Wallace Shawn, John Ratzenberger. (G, 81 min.)* Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 06

***Army of Darkness* Quote-Along (1993)** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thu., 11/29.)

***Beware: Children at Play* (1989)** *D: Mik Cribben; with Michael Robertson, Rich Hamilton, Robin Lilly, Lori Tigrath, Jamie Krause. (R, 94 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** Missing children become cannibal zombie killers. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 14 issue is Monday, Dec. 3**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): **specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com**; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 11/29.)

***The Visitor* (1979)** *D: Michael J. Paradise; with Mel Ferrer, Glenn Ford, Lance Henriksen, John Huston, Joanne Nail, Sam Peckinpah, Shelley Winters. (R, 106 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Rare screening of extended cut of this supernatural thriller about a possessed child features a wild cast that includes the likes of Huston, Winters, and Peckinpah. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

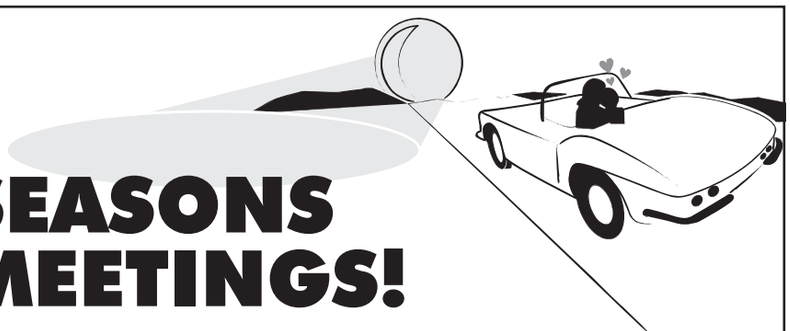
***The Whole Shootin' Match* (1978)** @Alamo Ritz, 4:30pm. See p.90.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Wed., 12/5.)

SPACES

***Live Free or Die Hard* (2007)** *D: Len Wiseman; with Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant, Justin Long, Cliff Curtis, Maggie Q, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kevin Smith. (PG-13, 140 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

***The Murder of Fred Hampton* (1971)** *D: Mike Gray and Howard Alk. (NR, 91 min.)* Commemorate the 38th anniversary of the assassination of the leader of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panters with this vintage documentary. @MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm.



SEASONS MEETINGS!

Meet someone special this holiday season by turning onto Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's online community for hooking up with real people from the Austin area. On Lovers Lane you can read profiles, look at pictures, and listen to voice greetings from people right here in Austin – absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, and record a voice greeting for free. You could be meeting new, interesting people right now. Check out Lovers Lane at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane.**

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3) STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
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4) STORYVILLE
Live at Antone's

5) TONI PRICE
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6) OMAR KENT DYKES & JIMMIE VAUGHAN
On the Jimmy Reed Highway

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Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga

8) GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY
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guest star AMILIA k SPICER

fri. nov 30 — an evening with austin's own MONTE MONTGOMERY

sat. dec 1 — the vibrant wonder of THE RAJAMANI ENSEMBLE
featuring OLIVER RAJAMANI

mon. dec 3 — OPEN STAGE
hosted by GRAHAM WEBER & ABI TAPIA 7pm sign-up!

tue. dec 4 — live @ the cactus! 8:30pm BRANDON RYDER & WALT WILKINS

wed. dec 5 — PETER CASE
GURF MORLIX WITH ROMI MAYS 8:30pm

thur. dec 6 — birthday soiree!! 8:30pm TISH HINOJOSA

fri. dec 7 — ELLIS PAUL 8:30pm
SONIA OF DISAPPEAR FEAR

tue. dec 11 — A Child's Christmas in Wales
based on the masterpiece by Dylan Thomas
featuring ALEX COKE, RICH HARNEY and CHRIS MARESH 7:30pm

www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/oe/cactus

12.10 OPEN STAGE	01.25 JOHN HAMMOND
12.12 COLIN GILMORE	01.26 AL STEWART
COREY BRANAN	02.07 OVER THE RHINE
12.13 DANNY SCHMIDT	02.08 OVER THE RHINE
12.15 LOUNGE LIZARDS	02.15 TOM RUSSELL
01.10 SHAWN MULLINS	02.18 TIM FINN
01.11 SHAWN MULLINS	02.23 DEAN & BRITTA from LUNA!
01.17 ADRIAN LEGG	
01.18 CHRIS SMITHER	

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted. 23rd & Guadalupe. 475-6515.
THE TEXAS UNION www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/oe/cactus

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FRI NOV 30 — AN EVENING WITH THAT ONE GUY
SUN DEC 2 — GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH THE BELLS OF JOY

FAMECAST FENOM FINALS
SAT DEC 1 — DOORS 6PM
ROCK, SINGER-SONGWRITER
SUN DEC 2 — DOORS 5PM
POP, HIP-HOP/R&B
TUE DEC 4 — DOORS 4PM
SPIRITUAL, COUNTRY, LATIN
WED DEC 5 - DOORS 4PM
FILM & ANIMATION, ELECTRONIC, DANCE

SUN DEC 9 — FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES
WED DEC 12 — GIRL IN A COMA WITH THE CLIKS
THU DEC 13 — LUKE BRYAN
FRI DEC 14 — MICE AND RIFLES
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WED DEC 19 — ZOOKEEPER
WITH THE ROSEWEED THIEVES AND FRANK SMITH
THU DEC 20 — MURDER, MY SWEET
WITH ELECTRIC TOUCH
FRI DEC 21 — SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
WITH THE BARONS
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SAT 1 >> EVM showcase 001
production unit xero
SUN 2 >> Jenifer Jackson
Every MON >> T Jarrod Trio
WED 5 >> Kevin Carroll
Nathan Hamilton
Michael Fracasso Piano Hour

music listings



U.S.S.A. *Emo's, Thursday 6* Paul Barker and Duane Denison darken *The Spoils*, with D.C. industrial legends Chemlab and Skeleton Key.

Soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

THE ENGLISH BEAT *Antone's, Friday 30*
Dave Wakeling makes rude boys into men.

TIA CARRERA *Mohawk, Saturday 1*
Make it a December to not quite remember.

THE BLACK, YELLOW FEVER *Hole in the Wall, Saturday 1*
Locals spin the color wheel.

RRIICCEE *Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, Monday 3*
Vincent Gallo and Eric Erlandson of Hole doing, uh, something. See "Man of a Thousand Faces," p.55, for Gallo's explanation.

MARCUS RUBIO *Parlor, Wednesday 5*
San Antonio teen violinist fluffs *Pillows*, with the bionic Sean McCarrey and backwoods People of the Deer.

RACHEL LOY & BRIAN KEANE'S FAREWELL SHOW *Continental Club, Thursday 6*
The duo head for greener pastures, but not before one last dance.

live music VENUES p.98
CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows p.100

Jon Dee Graham CD Release

CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 30



TODD V. WOLFSON

Far more ornery and loud in person than on disc, Jon Dee Graham celebrates the release of his first live album, *Swept Away* (Freedom), the soundtrack to a forthcoming documentary about his life, with a trademark growl and a guitar set on stun. (See "Off the Record," p.60, for more.) Baton Rouge's Red Stick Ramblers finish off the evening with a set of Cajun, blues, and swing rhythms sure to set feet sashaying across the Continental's floor. – *Jim Caligiuri*

Café Tacuba's previous studio album, 2003's *Cuatro Caminos* (*Four Paths*), garnered the Mexico City quartet Grammys both Latin and American; spawned a sprawling multimedia live spin-off, *Un Viaje* (*A Trip*); and touched off universal parallels to another schoolboy-cell-turned-musical-atom, Radiohead. Album No. 6, *Sino* (*Instead Of* and/or *Yes/No*), outrocks its predecessor by an indigenous metropolitan mile.

"This album is radically different from the sound we established on our first albums, where the eclecticism and influence of traditional Mexican music was more potent," explains the group's bassist, Enrique "Quique" Rangel, in silken Spanish. "This album is closest to the rock influences we've had since before forming Café Tacuba. It continues the experiment started on *Cuatro Caminos*, that of a rock band with a drummer."

Press has already hailed newbie "53100" as Café Tacuba's "Baba O'Riley," though it's the New Order burst of "Volver a Comenzar" that timelines classic "roc" as the 1980s more so than the 1970s.

"The Eighties is when we discovered music," *dice* Quique. "It was the moment that music separated us from people on the perimeter. That was the moment that all of us thought music could be a way of life. Not a way of life exactly, but something we wanted to do – make music. We didn't know what type. We played what we liked, and that turned us into musicians. That's when we got to know each other."

Eighteen years later, Café Tacuba is global.

"There seems to be a big difference between the people of the United States and the government of the United States. It's like the government has an idea of the country that its people don't. And me being Mexican and seeing the way they treat Mexicans, I think the United States forgets that it's a country of immigrants. I see the last names of people, and they're English and Polish and Russian and also Mexican and Dominican.

"The [U.S.] has the opportunity to have the best of all countries. And they forget." – *Raoul Hernandez*

Fivepiece compadre Porter opens.



Café Tacuba LA ZONA ROSA, THURSDAY 6

Black Joe Lewis, Brothers & Sisters

VICTORY GRILL, FRIDAY 30

Brightening the corners of the historic Eastside blues venue, Hot Tracks recording studio presents Buzz Night, a showcase of four local acts worthy of tongue-wagging. Black Joe Lewis lays down funky soul with his Honey Bears to end the night, and the sun-dappled harmonies of Brothers & Sisters cut with a more psychedelic edge as we await the troupe's sophomore full-length, expected early next year. Danny Malone provides the acoustic pop from his latest *Baby Bleu* EP, and the Golden Boys' rambunctious garage rhythms blow tops first. 9pm. – *Doug Freeman*

Benefit for Craig of World Burns to Death

EMO'S, SATURDAY 1

World Burns to Death is hardcore in every sense of the word. Early in 2006, five days after being stabbed in the chest outside the Parlor, lead screamer Jack Control checked himself out of the intensive care unit. The entire punk community rallied around the group, and now it's doing the same for bassist Craig Merritt. Local legends in the making the Krum Bums lead the charge with the crushing sounds of this year's *As the Tide Turns*, with help from Rogers Porn Collection, Hoodrats, and Deskonocidos. – *Austin Powell*

Cave, Ume EMO'S, MONDAY 3



Ume

AUBREY EDWARDS

The latest in a long line of bands that actively capture hallucinogenic experiences, Chicago quartet Cave crosses Krautrock with the sound of Japan's Psychedelic Speed Freaks Records roster on debut EP *Hunt Like Devil/Jamz* (Permanent), sonic stardust for the experimentally inclined. Local trio Ume adds a hint of *Daydream Nation*; Megazilla and We'll Go Machete bring the noise early. – *Austin Powell*

Todd Rundgren

ANTONE'S, TUESDAY 4

Zappa played Zappa for 3½ hours? Todd Rundgren can crank out two blowback hours of classic rock and never break a sweat. Must be the headset mic. From Yardbirds garager in the Nazz (1967) to Carole King commercial ("I Saw the Light," "Can We Still Be Friends?") and punk/New Wave godfather à la Cale the following decade (New York Dolls), the Philly boy was They Might Be Giants when they still made giants. – *Raoul Hernandez*

Peter Case

CACTUS CAFE, WEDNESDAY 5

Guitar-slinging troubadour Peter Case taps a rich vein of empathy for the economically and emotionally downtrodden on his 10th solo album, *Let Us Now Praise Sleepy John* (Yep Roc). Titled in tribute to country blues legend Sleepy John Estes, Case's strongest effort since 1998's *Full Service No Waiting* wrings every last drop of emotive energy out of weather-beaten acoustic arrangements and subtle lyrical indictments. Fellow Americana travelers Gurf Morlix and Romi Mayes open. – *Greg Beets*

The Blank Tapes

HOLE IN THE WALL, WEDNESDAY 5

Consistency is the only thing the Blank Tapes – San Franciscan Matt Adams and whatever assorted band he can assemble – don't do well. Yet Adams' ever-evolving lo-fi repertoire of folk, pop, and scratchy indie rock on *Daydreams* is as catchy as it is far-reaching. Local blues-billies the Skeletons run a twangwreck of ringing guitars and walking basslines, while San Marcos' Spooky Texas plods appropriately eerie and lugubrious harmonies. The Lonesome Heroes headline. – *Doug Freeman*

Silver Pines

SCOOT INN, THURSDAY 6

The translucent beauty of San Marcos' aptly named Silver Pines echoes throughout their gorgeous new *Fort Walnut* EP. Stefanie Franciotti's ephemeral vocals floating in a narcotic haze like a country-bred Hope Sandoval. Some Say Leland, meanwhile, explores an antique folk reservoir that bridges Appalachian banjo, ragtime piano, and even Tin Pan Alley clarinet, all within Dan Grissom's subtle narratives. Portland, Ore.'s Run on Sentence opens with similarly zesty acoustic jams. – *Doug Freeman*





live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL, 3001 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/388-7353
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA, Cesar Chavez between Guadalupe & Lavaca, 974-2000
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth and Guadalupe, 236-0074
AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY, 301 Chicon, Unit F, 296-6624
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN STUDIOS, 1901 E. 51st, 322-0145
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888
B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3, 5610 N. I-35, 302-1366
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake, 795-9000
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BATES RECITAL HALL, 27 E. Campus Dr., 471-1444
BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902
BIRDS BARBERSHOP, 2110 S. Lamar, 442-8800
BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
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CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
THE CARILLON, 2630 Exposition
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
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CLUB ONE 15, 115 San Jacinto, 480-0254
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
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EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
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MON. 12/3 @ 8PM
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Joe Manuel & more
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THURSDAY, NOV 29
NOVADRONE 11:30P
JAMES BULLARD 10P

FRIDAY, NOV 30
TEISCO DEL REY 11:30P
HERMAN THE GERMAN 10P

SATURDAY, DEC 1
THE BLACK 12A
YELLOW FEVER 10:30P
TURNSTYLE 10P

SUNDAY, DEC 2
SUPER EGO ALL-STARS 11:30P
BRAVADOS 11P
BLUEPRINT REBELLION 10P

MONDAY, DEC 3
LANDIS ARMSTRONG'S GUILTY PLEASURES 10P

TUESDAY, DEC 4
ROGER WALLACE 8P

WEDNESDAY, DEC 5
LONESOME HEROES 12:30A
SPOOKY TEXAS 11:30P
THE SKELETONS 10:30P
THE BLANK TAPES 9:30P

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"ALL THAT GLITTERS"
THURSDAY • 10PM PARIS '49
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
MONDAY • 10PM SON Y NO SON
TUESDAY • 10:30PM IZZY COX & SODA
WEDNESDAY • 10PM TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

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THURS NOV 29
HAPPY HOUR THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
12:30AM AMPLIFIED HEAT
11:15PM JUNGLE ROCKERS
10PM UGLY BEATS
FRI & SAT NOV 30 & DEC 1
TWO BIG SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Red Stick Ramblers
FRIDAY NIGHT
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
JON DEE GRAHAM
CD RELEASE PARTY
"SWEPT AWAY"
10PM
Red Stick Ramblers @ 12AM
SATURDAY NIGHT
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT
MARIO MATTEOLI
Red Stick Ramblers @ 10PM
12AM
SUNDAY DEC 2
WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL
10PM

MON DEC 3
H. H. PARIS '49
ALL NIGHT LONG!
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
TUESDAY DEC 4
H. H. 6:30 PLANET CASPER
WITH DAVID GRISSOM & WARREN HOOD
11PM TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD
ALL NIGHT LONG
WEDNESDAY DEC 5
H.H. SHOTGUN PARTY
JAMES McMURTRY
12AM
10PM Jon Dee Graham
THURSDAY DEC 6
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
RACHEL AND BRIAN FAREWELL PARTY
11PM BRIAN KEANE
10PM Rachel Loy
12AM ALL STAR JAM
FRIDAY DEC 7
H.H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS BROTHERS AND Sisters
12:30AM
11:15PM GRAHAM WILSON AND THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP
10PM DEADMAN
9PM Sarah Hughes
SATURDAY DEC 8
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT
12AM THE HACIENDA BROS.
10PM THE KNITTERS
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MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY 11/30
ROCKUS CIRCUS
10-2 MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 12/1
MT SKRILLA

SUNDAY 12/2
TINCAN PHONE

MONDAY 12/3
LIL STEPH & THE CHROMATICS

TUESDAY 12/4
TEXAS COUNTRY TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY 12/5
PATRICK FLEMING
8-12

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club listings

Thu 29

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Tucker Livingston (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Bill Carter Trio (3:30)
ANTONE'S Spoiled Royals, Muchos Backflips!, Major Major
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 John X. Reed, Speedy Sparks, Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB JJ Baron, Trent Turner
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Karaoke w/ Edie Castillo (7:00)
BATES RECITAL HALL Miró Quartet (8:00)
BEAUTY BAR DJ Honeycomb, Jets Under Fire, Pale, People Noise
BEERLAND Expensive Shit, Beta Valentine, Radioland Murders, Daniel Francis Doyle
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Amelia K. Spicer, John Gorka (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lost Pines, Crystal Jukebox
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Rumbullion (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Noise Revival Orchestra, DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Shane Watt, Krista L.L. Muir
CLUB ONE 15 Topaz, La Tampiquena (6:00), Brent Allen (10:00)

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail **clubs@austinchronicle.com**.

roadshows

NOVEMBER

THU 29

People Noise, **Pale**, Beauty Bar
John Gorka, **Amelia K. Spicer**, Cactus Cafe
Krista L.L. Muir, **Shane Watt**, **DJ Jester the Filipino Fist**, Club de Ville
Guymon Adams, Elysium
Electric Six, **Willowz**, **We Are the Fury**, Emo's
JoJo Serrato's Bad Apples, Flamingo Cantina
The Soldier Thread, Lucy's on the Square
Vampire Weekend, Mohawk
Harry Bodine, North by Northwest
Jose Gonzalez, **Cass McCombs**, the Parish
Low Red Land, the Parlor
Black Cobra, **Slough Feg**, Red 7
L.A. Guns, Red Eyed Fly
Flamin' Hellcats, Riley's Tavern
Johnny Vomit, Room 710
Dimitri's Ascent, Ruta Maya
Andy Davis, Stubb's
Jack Stafford Foundation, Trophy's
Jeff Parker, Whisky Bar

FRI 30

The English Beat, Antone's
Red Stick Ramblers, Continental Club
Razorblade Dolls, Elysium
The Lash Outs, Headhunters
Astronautilus, **Listener Project**, Mohawk
Steel Loaded, Red 7
Kill the Client, Room 710
That One Guy, Stubb's
Michael Martin Murphey, Texas State Strahan Coliseum

DECEMBER

SAT 1

Red Stick Ramblers, Continental Club
Deryl Dodd, Cotton Club
The Soldier Thread, **Hoodrats**, **Deskonocidos**, Emo's
Cobra Skulls, Headhunters
Avenged Sevenfold, **the Confession**, **Black Tide**, La Zona Rosa
Michael Thomas, Momo's
Randy Rogers, Nutty Brown Cafe
Pack of Wolves, Red 7
Steel Loaded, the Rock Room
Whorehound, Room 710
Exeter, Trophy's

SUN 2

As Cities Burn, **Dear & the Headlights**, **the Photo Atlas**, **Oceans Firing**, Emo's
Jenifer Jackson, Flipnotics at the Triangle
Dirty Penny, Headhunters
Jenny Reynolds, Momo's
Head On Collision, Room 710
Run Run Run, Trophy's

MON 3

RRIICCEE, Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz
Straylight Run, **the Color Fred**, **Dear & the Headlights**, the Parish
Matt Wilson, Reed's Jazz & Supper Club

TUE 4

Todd Rundgren, Antone's
Walt Wilkins, Cactus Cafe
Buttercup, Mohawk
Larry & His Flask, the Parlor
Between the Buried & Me, **August Burns Red**, **Behold ... the Arctopus**, Red 7
The Blank Tapes, Triple Crown

WED 5

Harry Bodine, ABIA: Earl Campbell's Sports Bar
Peter Case, **Romi Mayes**, Cactus Cafe
Chase Pagan, Emo's
Don Chani, Flamingo Cantina
The Blank Tapes, Hole in the Wall
Marcus Rubio, **Sean McCarrey**, the Parlor
Ivoryline, **Panima**, Red 7
Bent Branches, Scoot Inn & Beer Garden

THU 6

Stay Gold, Beauty Bar
The Spits, **the Reds**, **Nobunny**, **Cheap Time**, **Wax Museums**, **Hibachi Stranglers**, Beerland
The Blank Tapes, Carousel Lounge
Chemlab, **U.S.S.A.**, **Skeleton Key**, Emo's
Joker, Flamingo Cantina
Spector 45, Headhunters
Café Tacuba, **Porter**, La Zona Rosa
Li'l Rev, Odd Fellows Hall
Electric Pickle, **Lamar Murphy**, Room 710
Run on Sentence, Scoot Inn & Beer Garden
Nobunny, Sound on Sound

for your benefit

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

FRI 30

Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive Benefit w/ Horse + Donkey, Rossi Mission, Night Viking, **Salvation Army (Cumberland)**

Cowboy Christmas Ball, Michael Martin Murphey and Howard Hudiburg Orchestral Scholarship Fund w/ Michael Martin Murphey, Texas State University Orchestra, **Texas State Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos**

SAT 01

Chanukah in the Round, Austin State Hospital Benefit w/ Congregation Shir Ami Choir, Carol Rubin, **Austin Studios**

Face Aids Benefit w/ DJ Hobo Dat, Sweet Lee Morrow, Freshmillions, Zykos, **Club de Ville**

Benefit for Craig w/ Deskonocidos, Hoodrats, Roger's Porn Collection, Krum Bums, **Emo's**

Groundwork Music Orchestra Benefit w/ Groundwork Music Orchestra **Ruta Maya**

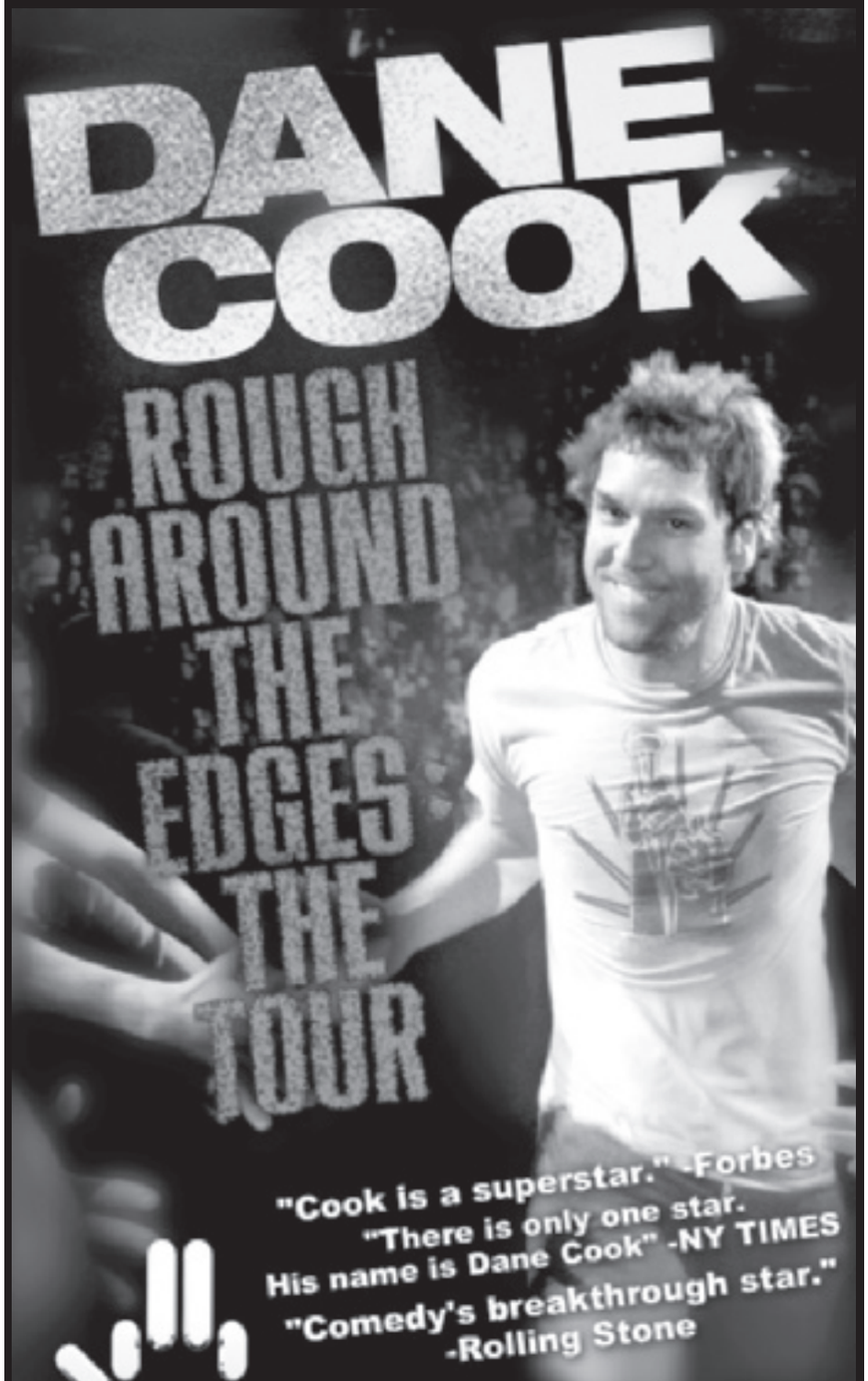
Acknowledge Me, Habitat on Wheels Benefit w/ Omega Monster Patrol, the Mysterious H, Billy Harvey, Screamin' Baby Heads, Canopy, **Scoot Inn**

TUE 04

Chanukah in the Hood, Austin State Hospital Benefit w/ Congregation Beth Israel Choir, Temple Beth Shalom Choir, Congregation Shir Ami Choir, Austin Jewish Academy Choir, Cantor Robbi Sherwin, **Central Market North**

WED 05

Musicians and Fine Artists for World Peace Christmas Benefit Concert w/ Kenny Malone, Desert Waltz, Dag King, Heidi Little, Kenny Parker, DB Martin Blues Band, **Copa Bar & Grill**



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AND MR. MAJESTIC ON THE DECKS

Saturday 12.01.07 Door 9:00, Show 10:00
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Wednesday 12.05.07 Door 9:00, Show 9:30
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DON CHANI
WITH BENNY VS. THE BEAST

Thursday 12.06.07 Door 9:00, Show 9:30
THE ADDICTIONS
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS, JOKER

FURTHER DOWN DA PIPE:
12.07: Crew 54 CD Release Party 12.08: Kanko, Supahat, & Boca Abajo 12.12: Ronnie Davis & The Pocket, Dr. Dubbist 12.13: Bloodshot Pyramid, Story of, Goodnight Goddess, The Story of, Jetsuns 12.14: Subrosa Union, Radio La Chusma, Liquid Cheese 12.15: Don Chani, Fieldside Refugees

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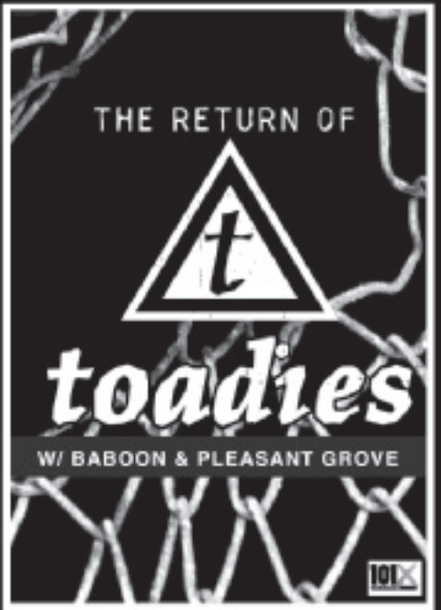
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SAT DEC 8 TIX ON SALE NOW

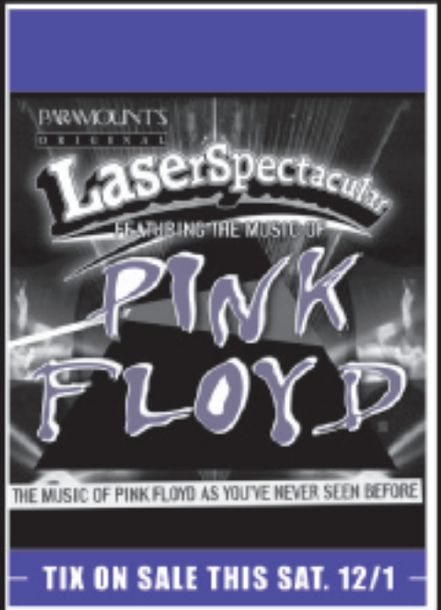


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TUE DEC 11 TIX ON SALE NOW



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FRI JAN 11

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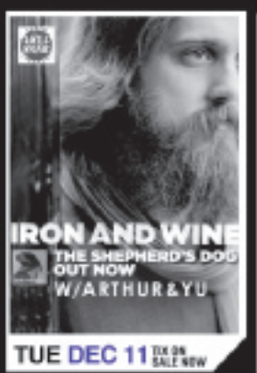
TUE JAN 15



SAT DEC 1 TIX ON SALE NOW



THU DEC 6 TIX ON SALE NOW



TUE DEC 11 TIX ON SALE NOW

UPCOMING SHOWS

DJ SHADOW + CUT CHEMIST *THE HARD SELL*	JAN 18
THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS	JAN 25
KELLER WILLIAMS *AND WMDS*	JAN 26
ROBIN TROWER	JAN 27
THE BANGLES	JAN 31

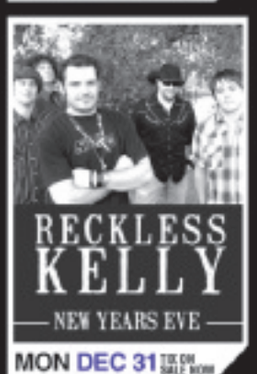
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WHOREHOUND
MESCALERO
SWEET SKULL 8pm: Odradek

Sun 12.2
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BLOOD OF PATRIOTS
HEAD ON COLLISION
CAREER CRIMINAL

Mon 12.3
HEART & SOUL SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 12.4
NOVADRONE
DUMB
INSTRUMENTS OF KARMA
HIGHER THAN WHY

Wed 12.5
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STONE DAKOTA
ETHEREAL ARCHITECT
MODEL ME OBSOLETE

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12.6 Dimpi Heat, Bath Dies Screaming 12.7 High Watt Crucifixers, Gentlemen's Social Club, Flesh Boys 12.8 Broken Teeth, Split Hoof 12.9 Boxcar Satan, LXS 6.14

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SATURDAY-DECEMBER 1: MUSIC LAB BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINALS, REDEFINING THE MOMENT, LANGUAGE ROOM, SCRAPS OF LIFE, BLUE HERO, AXLE-WOLF, ALL IS TAKEN
SUNDAY-DECEMBER 2: SPACE DONKEY, PENNI, ZAP EM DEAD BARTHOLEMEW
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FRIDAY-DECEMBER 7: GIRLS BELL NIGHT, ONE-EYED DOLL, VELVET BRICK, GRAVE EDEN, METEOR STREET MASSIVE
SATURDAY-DECEMBER 8: SCOTT BIRAM, CHILI COLD BLOOD, THE HILLBILLY PROPHETS
UPCOMING SHOWS
12-14 HIGHER THAN WHY CD RELEASE PARTY WITH SPIN ALLEY & SHANKRO
12-15 THE INCOMPATIBLE SLEEP PATTERNS CD RELEASE WITH FATBACK CIRCUS, RIOT LIKE HORDS, THE ARTILLERY
12-21 THE HOLIDAY HATE TOUR WITH PSYCHOSTICK
12-31 NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE STUMMIES
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Gabhar 11:00 PM
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Guymon Adams 10:00 PM
www.myspace.com/guymonadams
Friday November 30 LIVE MUSIC!
subNatural 12:00 AM
www.myspace.com/subnatural
The Razorblade Dolls 11:00 PM
www.myspace.com/therazorbladedollhouse (Dallas, TX)
Sleep Now Yes 10:00 PM
www.myspace.com/sleepnowyes
Saturday December 1 HAVEN
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURODANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER
Sunday December 2 REGRESSION
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE
Monday December 3 CLOSED
closed...rest for the wicked...
Tuesday December 4 90'S NIGHT
SO LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJs BOBA FETT & MINIMUS
Wednesday Dec. 5 MID-WAVE
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER
UPCOMING EVENTS
Thursday Dec. 6 • Deathrock Disko - with DJs None & Malediction
Friday Dec. 7 • KINGS N' THINGS - Ho-Ho-Homo for the Holidays
Thurs. Dec. 13 • MEnTAL ASYLUM : 80s Metal - DJs Jimmy & Donna the Dead
Friday Dec. 14 • *Live!* Femme Fatality, Hipnautica, TBA
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The Roller, The Flood
Fri 11/30 Rainsliver, Shadow Ministry
Razr13, Steel Loaded
Walk With a Ghost
Sat 12/1 Pack of Wolves, Indisgust,
Blood of Ronin, Disfigured
Eviscerated, Falsetta
Tue 12/4 BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME
w/ August Burns Red
Behold... The Arctopus
Wed 12/6 Ivoryline (Tooth and Nail), Panima
Fri 12/7 At All Cost
Pack of Wolves, Bangladesh
The High Cost of Living

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DATES & BANDS:

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30
WENDY COLONNA
soul grooves

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1
ATASH
middle-east grooves

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2
GUY FORSYTH
blues

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7
TWO HIGH STRING BAND
soul grooves

FRI & SAT 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm

@WESTGATE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29
RUMBULLION
french gypsy jazz

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2
DOUG HALL TRIO
jazz

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS
blues

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6
FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS
russian

WED & THURS 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm

UPCOMING:

@CENTRAL PARK LOCATION:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 5 - 7PM, at the NORTH LAMAR location:
"CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD"
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club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), the Ugly Beats, the Jungle Rockers, Amplified Heat (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE TUB (9:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Billy Dee, 2 Hoots & a Holler
ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Gabhar, Guymon Adams, Holocaust Humanity
EMO'S Outside: We Are the Fury, Willowz, Electric Six; Lounge: Yadira Brown, Underwater Orchestra, LAX, Mars Wars
EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA JoJo Serrato's Bad Apples (10:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Gretchen Phillips, Brent Adair (8:00)
FREDDIE'S PLACE Patty David Band (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Bo Porter & the Dixie Rockets (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Colin Gilmore (7:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HEADHUNTERS Little Morts, Dertybird, No Show Ponies
HILL'S CAFE Greg Schroder
HOLE IN THE WALL James Bullard, Novadrone (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Brewer Nation
LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Ryan Vaughan & Sahara Smith, Miranda Dodson (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Breezy
LOVEJOYS The Nortons
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Anagen (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Falcon Buddies, Fever Dreams, the Soldier Thread (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Bernie Calcote (10:30)
MOHAWK Buffalo Breath, Brazos, Vampire Weekend
MOMO'S Ryan Carter, Patrice Pike, Will Evans Project, Jeremy Nail, Redefining the Moment
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Harry Bodine (6:30)
THE OAKS Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews w/ John Downey & Steve Kavalier
ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)
THE PARISH Cass McCombs, Jose Gonzalez
THE PARLOR Correction Brothers, Low Red Land
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jim Stringer & the AM Band (8:00)
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED 7 The Flood, the Roller, Slough Feg, Black Cobra
RED EYED FLY L.A. Guns
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Dale Watson (7:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Flamin' Hellcats
THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Eddy Maine
ROOM 710 Moondog, Bricks ATX, Dual Exhaust, Johnny Vomit
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson
RUTA MAYA Meagan Tubb & Shady People, Toast, Dimitri's Ascent, Jabarvy (7:00)
SAXON PUB The Fabs, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Brent Allen (10:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Jordan Price
STUBB'S Matt the Electrician, Andy Davis
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jason Marbach
TRIPLE CROWN Phil Stevens, Green Mountain Grass
TROPHY'S Alexander's Dark Band, Jack Stafford Foundation, the Fire Marshals of Bethlehem, Daylight Titans
VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)
WHISKY BAR Jeff Parker
Z'TEJAS Señor Gato (6:00)

Fri 30

311 CLUB Brandon Gist, Joe Valentine (8:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Colin Gilmore (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Blue Mist (3:30)
ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/ AUSTIN CITY LIMITS The Gougers (1:00)
AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANTONE'S The English Beat
AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA Texana Dames (noon)
AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY Spooky Texas
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Floating Crowbar
BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen, Many Birthdays, the Politics
THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (9:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Suzanna
'BOUT TIME DJ Element
BROKEN SPOKE James Hand
CACTUS CAFE Monte Montgomery (9:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE We Dream in Daylight, Eddy Highway, Greatest American Heroes
CEDAR STREET BettySoo, Radiostar (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Wendy Colonna (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Jon Dee Graham CD Release, Red Stick Ramblers (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:15)
COTTON CLUB Kenny Orts (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters, Murphy's Inlaws, Loy Bones (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Marc Devine Trio (8:00)
EGO'S Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Uncle Lucius
ELEPHANT ROOM Django's Mustache, Kat Edmonson Quintet
ELYSIUM Sleep Now Yes, Razorblade Dolls, SubNatural
EMO'S Dead by Knight, Brotherhood, Bangladesh, Lug
EVANGELINE CAFE Greezy Wheels (10:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Grimy Styles (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Gillian Welch Tribute, Brian Hudson (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lost & Nameless Orchestra, the Bubbles (9:00)
FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Dewey Lyon
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson
GRUENE HALL Highspeed Hayride, Zona Jones

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THU, NOV 29 — JESSE DAYTON 8-9PM
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FRI, NOV 30 — JAMES HAND
SAT, DEC 1 — CORNELL HURD
TUE, DEC 4 — HARDCORE COUNTRY
W/ ALVIN CROW & JAMES M. WHITE
WED, DEC 5 — LUCKY TOMBLIN

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@ RED 7
THE ROLLER, THE FLOOD

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between the buried and me
@ RED 7
[SHOW AT 9PM]

sat 12/8/07 +
SONNY, MONSTER IN THE MACHINE, STRATA
team sleep
[CHINO OF DEFTONES, EARLY SHOW] @ MOHAWK

sat 12/8/07
yip yip (saf recs)
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BRUCE SMITH 7:30PM
MELODIC DRIFTERS 10PM
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SAT 12/1
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SUN 12/2
FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

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KARNIVAL 8PM
MONTE MONTGOMERY
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WED 12/5
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THE CLASS OF '87 REUNION
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★JAMES MCMURTRY★
★JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ★
★BRUCE ROBISON★
★AL BARLOW★
★TERRI HENDRIX★
★TODD SNIDER★
★KENT FINLAY★
& SURPRISE GUESTS!

FR THE DEDRINGERS
SA MONTE MONTGOMERY
SU GRANT MAZAK BAND 4-8PM
MO BRANDON RHYDER
TU JON WOLFE
WE EVERY WEDS - SONGWRITERS CIRCLE KENT FINLAY'S

COMING SOON
12/6 TEXAS RENEGADE
12/7 DOUG MORELAND
12/14 MARCIA BALL

CHRONtourage

Friday, Nov. 30
chrontourage winterJam2007!
featuring Ember Austin, Mother's Anthem, and Dremnt the End!
The Parish, 214 E. Sixth
austinchronicle.com/chrontourage



Saturday, Dec. 1, 8pm
Soundcheck Magazine
wintershowcase
with the Soldier Thread, Micah P. Hinson, and Moth Fight!
Tickets $8 at www.emosaustin.com or $10 at the door
Emo's, 603 Red River
www.emosaustin.com

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 9:30-11:30pm
DEWAR'S "30S THROWBACK"
Dress in your 30's best and attend a 1930's classic movie, followed by a 1hour set by the White Ghost Shivers. Tickets: $12, ages 21+ at www.originalalamo.com.
Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz
www.dewarsrepealday.com

Check out photos of what you missed at austinchronicle.com/whatyoumissed.

CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com/chrontourage

club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

HANOVER'S Bruce Smith, Melodic Drifters, Tres Gringos (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Wilson, the Lash Outs, Hellapeno
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Adam Buhrman (6:15)
HILL'S CAFE Greg Caldwell
HOLE IN THE WALL Herman the German, Teisco Del Rey
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Ryan Davis, the Gunhands, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (6:30)
JP'S JAVA Jenny Elder (7:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Kat's Meow (6:30), Blaze (10:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Nano & the Afternoon (9:00)
MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE DJ Thibault: Sushi Secret Agent
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks
MOHAWK Transmography, Listener Project, Astronautilus
MOMO'S UT Ethnomusicology Ensemble (9:00)
MOONRIVER Meagan Tubb & Shady People (9:30)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Basil's Band, Texas Renegade
THE OAKS Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders (8:00)
THE PARISH Chrontourage Winter Jam w/ Ember, Mother's Anthem, Dremnt the End
THE PARLOR The Archibalds
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Patricia Vonne Welcome Home (8:30)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Redneck Jedi, Ryan Turner
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RED 7 Walk With a Ghost, Steel Loaded, Razr 13, Shadow Ministry, Rainsliver
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Kris Kimura Quartet
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann
THE ROCK ROOM The Detentions, Carson Alexander (5:00)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Me vs. Everybody, Doom Siren, Kill the Client, Kegcharge, Pleasant Valley, World Burns to Death
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Jerry Horn
RUTA MAYA Adventures of Reunion
SALVATION ARMY Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive Benefit w/ Horse + Donkey, Rossi Mission, Night Viking (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Trio Del Rio w/ MaryAnn Price (9:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Much Love (8:30)
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Followed by Static, Damage Pants, Broke Beads (10:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Jawbreaker
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS John Deery (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Sauce (9:30)
STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley
STUBB'S That One Guy
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Digital Juke
TEXAS STATE STRAHAN COLISEUM Cowboy Christmas Ball, Michael Martin Murphey and Howard Hudiburg Orchestral Scholarship Fund w/ Michael Martin Murphey, Texas State University Orchestra (8:00)
THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS Art Sale w/ Language Room, Li'l Mikey & the Soda Jerks (5:00)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Mingo Fishtrap (9:00)
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio
TRIPLE CROWN Shotgun Party, Mira Look, Muchos Backflips!, Three Leaf (6:00)
TROPHY'S Three Fantastic, Opposite Day, Lick Lick
VICTORY GRILL Black Joe Lewis, Brothers & Sisters, Danny Malone, Golden Boys (9:00)

Sat 01

311 CLUB Stephanie Bradley, Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S Carolyn Wonderland, Asleep at the Wheel
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Abi Tapia (10:00am)
AUSTIN STUDIOS Chanukah in the Round, Austin State Hospital Benefit w/ Congregation Shir Ami Choir, Carol Rubin (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Nelson Saga & Arma del Alma (7:00)
BEAUTY BAR The Laughing, Car Stereo (Wars)
THE BELMONT David Chao (7:00)
BIRDS BARBERSHOP Man Fest w/ DJ Laser Donkey, Golden Bear (2:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Cornell Hurd Band
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Oliver Rajamani (9:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

HOT TRACKS
BUZZ NIGHT @ THE VICTORY GRILL
Friday, Nov. 30
9PM SHARP!
BLACK JOE LEWIS
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
DANNY MALONE
GOLDEN BOYS
MySpace.com/a_recording_studio

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Stones Throw
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Atash (6:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Face Aids Benefit w/ DJ Hobo Dat, Sweet Lee Morrow, Freshmillions, Zykos
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), Red Stick Ramblers, Mario Matteoli (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Taboo (9:15)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Just Add Water, Deryl Dodd (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Danny Britt & Red Dawg
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)
EGO'S Tiny Adventurers, the Rite Flyers, Moonlight Towers
ELEPHANT ROOM Blaze (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather (10:30)
EMO'S Inside: Benefit for Craig w/ Deskonocidos, Hoodrats, Rogers Porn Collection, Krum Bums; Lounge: The Soldier Thread, Micah P. Hinson, Moth!Fight!
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Idgy Vaughn, the Blue Hit (9:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jack & the Jilted (9:00)
HANCOCK RECREATION CENTER St. Andrew's Ball (2:00)
HANOVER'S Butcherwhite, Freebleeder, Trash Rockets, Velvet Brick
HEADHUNTERS Radioland Murders, Bass Line Bums, the Stones We Throw, Cobra Skulls, the Sweethearts
HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair
HOLE IN THE WALL Yellow Fever, the Black
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Kathleen Taylor (9:00)
JOVITA'S Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Black Tide, the Confession, Operator, Avenged Sevenfold
LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Afrofreque, DJ Nick Nack CD Release (10:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Matt White (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey's Blues Happy Hour (6:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Red Waves, Cord
MOHAWK Tia Carrera
MOMO'S Michael Thomas, Green Mountain Grass, South Austin Jug Band
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Randy Rogers
ONE 2 ONE BAR Derrick Davis (10:00)
THE PARISH Powderburn, Southern Front, the Artillery, Fire From the Gods, Carbide
THE PARLOR Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's, Lonesome Dave Fisher
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chris Morris & John Burkland (5:00), Jon Emery (8:00)
PLUSH Table Manners Crew (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Andrea Marie, Rusty Wier

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CALL 47-PARTY

THURSDAY, NOV 29 — JJ USHER
FRIDAY, NOV 30 — RAYVON 9:30PM
DJ ABE ON TERRACE 59
SATURDAY, DEC 1 — VELVET LOVE BOX 9:30PM
DJ HOLLAND ON TERRACE 59
SUNDAY, DEC 2 — CLOSED
MONDAY, DEC 3 — S.I.N. WITH JONATHAN TERRELL
ON TERRACE 59
TUESDAY, DEC 4 — "BLACKTOOTH" TUESDAYS
WEDNESDAY, DEC 5 — LATIN WEDNESDAY
THE BREW 9:30PM
SALSA LESSONS 9PM

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club listings ◂◂ FROM SATURDAY

RADISSON Kent Mayhew (5:30)
RED 7 Falsetta, Pack of Wolves, Eviscerated, Disfigured, Indisgust, Blood of Ronin
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB The Brew (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
THE ROCK ROOM Razr 13, Steel Loaded, Death Got Killed, Back at Goliad (8:00)
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
ROOM 710 Odradek, Sweet Skull, Mescalero, Whorehound, Super Heavy Goat Ass
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Made in the Shade
RUTA MAYA Groundwork Music Orchestra Benefit (4:00), Rattletree, Djembabes, Masanko Kamsisi Banda (9:30)
SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)
SAXON PUB Paula Nelson, Mike Milligan, Carolyn Wonderland (9:00)
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Acknowledge Me, Habitat on Wheels Benefit w/ Omega Monster Patrol, the Mysterious H, Billy Harvey, Screamin' Baby Heads, Canopy (8:00)
SPEAKEASY Velvet Love Box (9:30)
STARDUST CLUB Kim & Her Blues Boys
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jason Marbach & Barbarosa
THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS Language Room (10:00am)
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio
TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod's Hi-Fi (7:00)
TROPHY'S Exeter, Co-Pilot
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE C RANCH Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra (11:00am)

Sun 02

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Guy Forsyth (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Doug Hall Trio (12:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Mallory Valentine, Horse Opera, Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM Darin Layne Trio (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Oceans Firing, the Photo Atlas, Dear & the Headlights, As Cities Burn
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Jenifer Jackson (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Will T. Massey, Robert Banta, & George Ensle
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
HEADHUNTERS Dirty Penny, Rubber Monster
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Blueprint Rebellion, Bravados, Superego All-Stars
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Kinktet (11:00am), Tanya Winch (4:00)
JOHNNY FINS Kent Mayhew (noon)
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, the Late Joys (6:00)
LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Red Young, & Brannen Temple (6:30)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church/Jam (8:30)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL DJ Tetsuo (10:00)
MOMO'S Jenny Reynolds, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Marshall Ford Swing Band
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Strong Medicine (noon)
NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
THE OASIS The Brew
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (5:30)
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic
RIVERBEND CENTRE Austin Symphony Quartet (3:00)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Eddy Maine
ROOM 710 Career Criminal, Blood of Patriots, Head On Collision, Blunt Force Trauma
RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band (7:00)
SAENGERRUNDE HALL Saengerrunde Damenchor Christmas Concert (2:30)
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Oliver Rajamani, OHN
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Steven Will & the Salingers, Nathan Hubble (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle
THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
TROPHY'S Run Run Run, Azoustin
THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Patrick
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 03

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Jeff Tveraas (3:30)
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ RRIICCEE (9:45)
ANTONE'S Easy Monday w/ Lee Edwards & Claudia Voyles (7:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ John Chapman
THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)
BLIND PIG PUB Chris Pennington (10:30)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
CEDAR STREET Highly Likely, John Pointer (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Mike & Rob Haedge (5:30)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Son y No Son (10:00); In the Club: Paris 49 (6:30), Dale Watson (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Wes Nickson, Open Stage w/ Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)
EMO'S We'll Go Machete, Megazilla, Ume, Cave
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Stayton Bonner & Amy Cook

RED·FEZ
NIGHTLY MUSIC



THURSDAY
Twilight Broadcast 8:00-10:00
The Weekend Warm-Up 10:00-2:00
FRIDAY
An Arabian Night 8:00-11:00
DJ In/Verse 11:00-2:00
SATURDAY
A. Rex 8:00-10:00
DJ Kurv 10:00-2:00
SUNDAY
DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00
MONDAY
DJ Jeff Jupiter 10:00-2:00
TUESDAY
Bruce James Quartet 8:00-10:00
Twist Up w/DJ Manny 10:00-2:00
WEDNESDAY
Atash 8:00-11:00
Table Manners Crew 10:00-2:00

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

INSIDE, DOORS OPEN @ 9PM:



ELECTRIC SIX

WILLOWZ • WE ARE THE FURY

LOUNGE, DOORS @9PM:

BLACKLISTED INDIVIDUALS • MARS WARS

YADIRA BROWN • THE UNDERWATER ORCHESTRA • DJ STATIC

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

LOUNGE, DOORS OPEN @ 9PM:

ALELA DIANE(CANCELLED)

KRISTI RAE • UNFORTUNATE HEADS

INSIDE: LUG • BANGLADESH

BROTHERHOOD • DEAD BY KNIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

LOUNGE, DOORS @ 9PM, SHOW STARTS EARLY @ 9:30PM:

:SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE PARTY:

MOTH!FIGHT! • MICAH P. HINSON

THE SOLDIER THREAD

OUTSIDE: BENEFIT FOR CRAIG

(WORLD BURNS TO DEATH)

THE KRUM BUMS • ROGERS PORN COLLECTION

HOODRATS • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

INSIDE, DOORS OPEN @ 9PM:



AS CITIES BURN

DEAR & THE HEADLIGHTS

THE PHOTO ATLAS • OCEANS FIRING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

LOUNGE: CAVE • UME • MEGAZILLA

WE'LL GO MACHETE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

RED BULL EVENT ALL STAGES

CLASH OF THE HEROES:

LEGENDS OF AUSTIN

GUITAR HERO 3 COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

INSIDE:

LOOK MEXICO • CHASE PAGAN

(MILITIA GROUP)

MRANDMRSMAYS • CRAIG MARSHALL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

OUTSIDE:

USSA

SKELETON KEY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

OUTSIDE, DOORS OPEN @ 9PM:



DINOSAUR JR.

AWESOME COLOR • GRAND CHAMPEEN

INSIDE: CLIPD BEAKS

(TIGERBEAT6/LOVEPUMP UNITED)

IKILLCARS • DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE

LOUNGE: MANEJA BETO • CONSIDER THE SOURCE

TBA • TARTUFI TARTUFI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

INSIDE, DOORS OPEN @ 9PM:

AGENT ORANGE • THE APE-SHITS

SUMMER OF BLOOD • THE SNAKE TRAP

OUTSIDE, $5 COVER

CLAP!CLAP! (FINAL SHOW)

HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC • PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

THE ALWAYS ALREADY

DJING BEFORE AND BETWEEN SETS:

TEAM FABRICATION & CAR STEREO (WARS)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

LOUNGE: JACK ROSE • DONALD MILLER

DOUGLAS FERGUSON

INSIDE: JOHNNY GOUDIE

ASTRA HEIGHTS • DEDRINGERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

INSIDE: IRON AGE • TRASH TALK

CRUEL HAND

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

INSIDE: GOLDEN BOYS • THE TEENERS

THE ZEST OF YORE!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE X-MAS

SILVERSUN PICKUPS • BRITT DANIEL

WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS

THE LEMURS

TIX ON SALE THROUGH WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM AND ALL FRONT GATE TICKET OUTLETS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

INSIDE: YOUNG HEART ATTACK • DEGUELLO

ELECTRIC TOUCH • THE STEPS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

OUTSIDE:

THE WALKMEN • ZYKOS

HORSE + DONKEY

LOUNGE:

THE ALICE ROSE • GRAND CHAMPEEN

GRAND OLE PARTY • THE MURDOCKS

INSIDE: THESE ARMS ARE SNAKES

THE RUSSIAN CIRCLES

FIRE VS. EXTINGUISHER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

UNWED SAILOR • THIS WILL DESTROY YOU

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE:



COLOUR REVOLT

COMING SOON: •12/19 ANTELOPE•12/21 RINGO DEATHSTARR, LA SNACKS •12/22 GHOSTS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE •12/31 SCOTT BIRAM, FLAMETRICK SUBS, HOTROD HILLBILLIES •1/2-1/10 FREE WEEK! •1/12 THE SWORD, TRIGGER RENEGADE, THE ROLLER (OUT/ONSALE NOW) • 1/15 GALLOWS W/THIS IS HELL AND CANCER BATS (OUTSIDE)* •1/18 TWO TON BOA (DUETS)* •1/19 LES SAVY FAV* •1/20 NASHVILLE PUSSY • 1/21 HOWL / ST. JUDE •1/31 WHITE WILLIAMS (IN/ONSALE NOW) • 2/22 COBRA STARSHIP W/ METRO STATION / WE ARE KINGS / THE CAB (INSIDE) TIX ON SALE 12/1 AT 10AM •3/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN/ONSALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records, end of an ear records, & sound on sound records

club listings ◂◂ FROM MONDAY

GIDDY UPS Open Blues Jam w/ JJ Slyde
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Landis Armstrong's Guilty Pleasures
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LUCKY LOUNGE Jeffery David (10:00)
MOMO'S Tom Billam, FFUI w/ Graham Wilkinson, Bukka Allen, Dustin Welch
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (10:30)
THE PARISH Cassin, Dear & the Headlights, the Color Fred, Straylight Run
THE PARLOR Getting Even, Before Dawn
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie
RADISSON Larissa Ness (5:30)
RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Matt Wilson (7:00)
THE ROCK ROOM Open Mic (7:00)
ROMEO'S Lisa Clark
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)
RUTA MAYA Suzanne Smith
SAM'S TOWN POINT Nate Vancil (8:30)
SAXON PUB Wayne Sutton, Jeff Plankenhorn, Latin at Heart, Matthew Ballard
SPEAKEASY Under the Stars w/ Jonathan Terrell
TRIPLE CROWN Scotty & the Metaphysics (6:00)

Tue 04

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Station (9:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Plank (3:30)
ANTONE'S Todd Rundgren
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Karaoke w/ Edie Castillo (7:00)
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (8:00)
CACTUS CAFE Brandon Rhyder & Walt Wilkins (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Coffee Sergeants, Wiretree
CEDAR STREET 18 Karat, Ben Burgess (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Chanukah in the Hood, Austin State Hospital Benefit w/ Congregation Beth Israel Choir, Temple Beth Shalom Choir, Congregation Shir Ami Choir, Austin Jewish Academy Choir, Cantor Robbi Sherwin (5:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Vela & Jordan Minor (5:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Casper Rawls' Planet Casper w/ David Grissom, Warren Hood (6:30), Barfield, the Tyrant of Texas Funk (11:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S James Martin, Jeremiah Houston
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE Writers Who Rock Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Tony Campise (9:30)
ELYSIUM 90's Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EVANGELINE CAFE Gene Taylor (6:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Drew Tishnell (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ the Horton Bros. (9:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Cade Baccus
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Kevin Havron, Jay Dirks (7:30), Karnival w/ Monte Montgomery, Phil Bass, James Spears (8:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE SingerSlashSongwriter Open Mic Night w/ Chase Holbrook (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Mo Pair, the Love Band (6:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Mr. Brown, DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Piano Bar w/ Mikey (10:00)
MOHAWK Buttercup
MOMO'S Nathan Hubble, James Bullard, Drew Smith, Dana Falconberry, Suzanna Choffel
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
THE PARLOR The Extravaganza, Open Casket, Larry & His Flask
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Lonesome Dave Fisher (8:00)
PLUSH Mentalnote
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos





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CAROLYN WONDERLAND 8:00 $8
GEORGE DEVORE $8 8:00
CHRIS BRECHT 12:30 $5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The EARS
Thursday Nov. 29

WARREN HOOD 8:30 $10
MUCH LOVE 12:00 $8
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The REGULARS
Friday Nov. 30


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
JACKIE THE JOKE MAN MARTLING 8:00 $15 cover
FROM THE HOWARD STERN SHOW
CAROLYN WONDERLAND 12:00 $10 cover
MIKE MILLIGAN 10:30
PAULA NELSON 9:00


THE RESENTMENTS
7:00 $5 cover
THE SALINGERS 10:00
NATHAN HUBBLE 12:00
Sunday Dec. 2


JEFF PLANKENHORN 8:30 $5 cover
WAYNE SUTTON 7:00
LATIN AT HEART 10:30
MATTHEW BALLARD 12:00
Monday Dec. 3


bruce hughes 8:00 $5 cover
MPTU 7:00
MALFORD MILLIGAN MARK ANDES, & PHIL BROWN
BRUCE SMITH 12:00
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The STINGRAYS
Tuesday Dec. 4


MONTE MONTGOMERY 10:00 $10 cover
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 $5
SUNNY SWEENEY 8:00 $5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with 10 City Run
Wednesday Dec. 5

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DEC. 8 - STEPHEN BRUTON & SETH WALKER
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7PM
WILL DUNLAP
WEDNESDAYS
7PM
PTARMIGAN

No Bad Days
Poodie's Hilltop
ROADHOUSE
Wednesday, December 5, 6, 7 & 8
RON WHITE 8pm
Thursday, November 29
STOP THE TRUCK
$2 DOMESTIC & $2 BEER
Friday, November 30
RYAN TURNER
REDNECK JEDI
Saturday, December 1
BENEFIT FOR
RUSTY WIER
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
THE WIERWOLVES
ANDREA MARIE
THE TROUBADILLOS & MORE
Sunday, December 2
NATHAN'S TRAIN STAGE JAMMERS 3PM-DUSK
Monday, December 3
RU COLEMAN
& TEXAS BOOGIE
BLUES & BBQ 6-10PM
Tuesday, December 4
THE TROUBADILLOS
8pm
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It's Thirsty Thursday!
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THE RETURN OF FLOATING CROWBAR (Formerly Pubcrawler)
FRIDAY Nov 30 - 10:30
SATURDAY Dec 1 - 10:30
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 / $10
PATRICE PIKE 8

every thursday
WILL EVANS PROJECT 10:15
JEREMY NAIL 11:30
UNCLE LUCIUS 12:45
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30 / $8
UT ETHNOMUSICOLOGY ENSEMBLE 9 TO 2AM
MICHAEL HILL HAPPY HOUR 6-7:30 (NO COVER)
SATURDAY DECEMBER 1 / $10

SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND 11
GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS 9:30
MICHAEL THOMAS 8
SUNDAY DECEMBER 2 / $5
WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS every sunday 9:30-12
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 12:15
JENNY REYNOLDS 8
ALICIA BROUSSARD, MIKEY DE LARA & JONATHAN EASTRIDGE 6
MONDAY DECEMBER 3 / $5
every monday DUSTIN WELCH & THE HOUSE BAND 10
BUKKA ALLEN 9
FFUI W/ GRAHAM WILKINSON 11:45
TOM GILLAM 7
TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 / $5
every tuesday SUZANNA CHOFFEL 9:30
DANA FALCONBERRY 8:15
JAMES BULLARD 7
DREW SMITH 10:45
NATHAN HUBBLE 5:45-6:45
HAPPY HR 6-8PM / $2 DOMESTICS $3 WELLS TIL 8PM
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5 / $5
every wednesday DAN DYER 9:30
GOLDCURE 12:15
JEREMY NAIL 10:45
EVANGELINE 8
UPCOMING SHOWS
DEC 26 107.1 KGSR PRESENTS RUTHIE FOSTER & MISS LAVELLE WHITE'S Christmas Bash
NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE BAND OF HEATHENS
DAN DYER & porter davis
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM STARTING DEC. 5

club listings ◂◂ FROM TUESDAY

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin
RADISSON Murphy's Inlaws
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED 7 Behold ... the Arctopus, August Burns Red, Between the Buried & Me
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Garry Harris Quartet (7:00)
ROOM 710 Instruments of Karma, Dumb, Novadrone
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Oliver Rajamani, OHN
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)
SAXON PUB Stingrays, Bruce Hughes, Bruce Smith, MPTU
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Hilary York, Aimee Bobruk (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Clay Nightingale, the Blank Tapes, Spooky Texas
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)
Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

Wed 05

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)
311 CLUB Brandon Gist (9:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Harry Bodine (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Hosea Hargrove (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Bobby LaRoche (1:00)
ANTONE'S Eric Tessmer
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove & the Roadrunners
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Karaoke w/ Edie Castillo (7:00)
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin
CACTUS CAFE Romi Mayes, Gurf Morlix, Peter Case (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lennings, Jim Keaveny
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Texas Eastside Kings (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Psychotropic w/ DJ Scorpio, DJ Whiplash
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party, Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (6:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Musicians, Fine Artists for World Peace Christmas Benefit Concert w/ Kenny Malone, Desert Waltz, Dag King, Heidi Little, Kenny Parker, DB Martin Blues Band (6:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)
EGO'S James Calihan, Clairmont, Eliot Fitzgerald, Paul Banks & the Carousels
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Garry Harris Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Craig Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. Mays, Chase Pagan, Look Mexico
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson
FLAMINGO CANTINA Don Chani
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Michael Fracasso, Nathan Hamilton, Kevin Carroll (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE McMercy Family Gospel Band
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
GRUENE HALL Zach Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)
HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Armadillo Action Figures
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Experiment in Troubadourism w/ Jenny Elder (7:00)
HILL'S CAFE Dwight Rounds
HOLE IN THE WALL The Blank Tapes, Spooky Texas, Skeletons, Lonesome Heroes
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Matt Maye (9:00)
JOVITA'S The Johns, Teddy Long (7:00)
LAMBERTS DJ Honeycomb (10:30)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Brewer Nation, BoomBox ATX
MOHAWK Frank Smith
MOMO'S Evangeline, Dan Dyer, Jeremy Nail, Goldcure
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
NATRIX NATRIX RECORDS Squidley, L.E. Methe, Caleb Fraid, Charlie McAlister (8:00)
PARDNERS Kara
THE PARLOR People of the Deer, Sean McCarrey, Marcus Rubio
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ron "Tater Salad" White
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank
RADISSON The Newz
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED 7 Panima, Ivoryline
RED FEZ Atash (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet w/ Denia Ridley (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
ROOM 710 Model Me Obsolete, Ethereal Architect, Stone Dakota, Red Line Riot
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
SAXON PUB Ten-City Run (6:00), Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Meagan Tubb (8:00)
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Austin Poetry Slam (7:00), Bent Branches, Esther Newell, Buffalo Breath (11:00)
SHOAL CREEK SALOON Eve Monsees & the Exiles (7:30)
SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)
VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Philip Gibbs (6:00)

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Th 29	Phil Stevens 6pm Green Mountain Grass 9pm
Fr 30	Shotgun Party 6pm Three Leaf, Muchos Backflips, Mira Look 9pm
Sa 1	Word Association (CD release), Heroes, EVAK1 10pm FREE SHOW!!!
Su 2	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 3	Scotty & the Metaphysics 6pm
Tu 4	RC Banks 6pm Clay Nightingale, The Blank Tapes, Spooky Texas 9pm
We 5	Scott Wood 6pm The Egress, Mira Look, Gold Teeth & Gucci 9pm
Th 6	George Kinney & the Cedar Creekers 6pm Móchate - *Salsa Night* 9pm
Fr 7	Bill Jerram 6pm The Belgraves, Steppin' Razors 9pm
Sa 8	The Beaumonts, Shotgun Party 10pm

SPRUNG

friday 9:30

LES & THE FUNK MOB

SATURDAY 9:30

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU 29	KENT MAYHEW	RADIOSTAR
FRI 30	PHIL REDMAN	SPRUNG
SAT 1		LES & THE FUNK MOB
SUN 2		suede
MON 3	HIGHLY LIKELY	JACK ROWE COMBO
TUE 4	18 KARAT	JAPARDI
WED 5	TRENT & DAVE	SPAZMATICS

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thursday 11/29:
JOSE GONZALEZ
W/ CASS McCOMBS

friday 11/30:
DREMNT THE END
CD RELEASE



saturday 12/1:
CARBIDE
W/FIRE FROM THE GODS, PREY FOR SLEEP, & SOUTHERN FRONT

monday 12/3:
STRAYLIGHT RUN
w/ THE COLOR FRED, DEAR AND THE HEADLIGHTS, & CASSINO

wednesday 12/5:
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thursday 12/6:
MERIDIAN WEST
w/JONATHAN CLAY & KRISTIN LEIGH



friday 12/7:
BEN LEE
W/CARY BROTHERS & KATE VOEGELE

thursday 12/13:
MICHAEL HURLEY
sunday 12/16:
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THU, NOV 29, 6PM



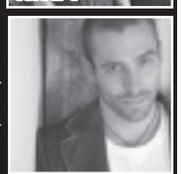
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR FEATURING THE 'LEGENDARY' IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND

10PM



ANAGEN

FRI, NOV 30, 9PM



NANO AND THE AFTERNOON

SAT, DEC 1, 9PM



MATT WHITE

MON, DEC 3, 10PM



JEFFERY DAVID OF THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE

TUE, DEC 4, 10PM



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THURS, DEC 6, 10PM



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Thu 06

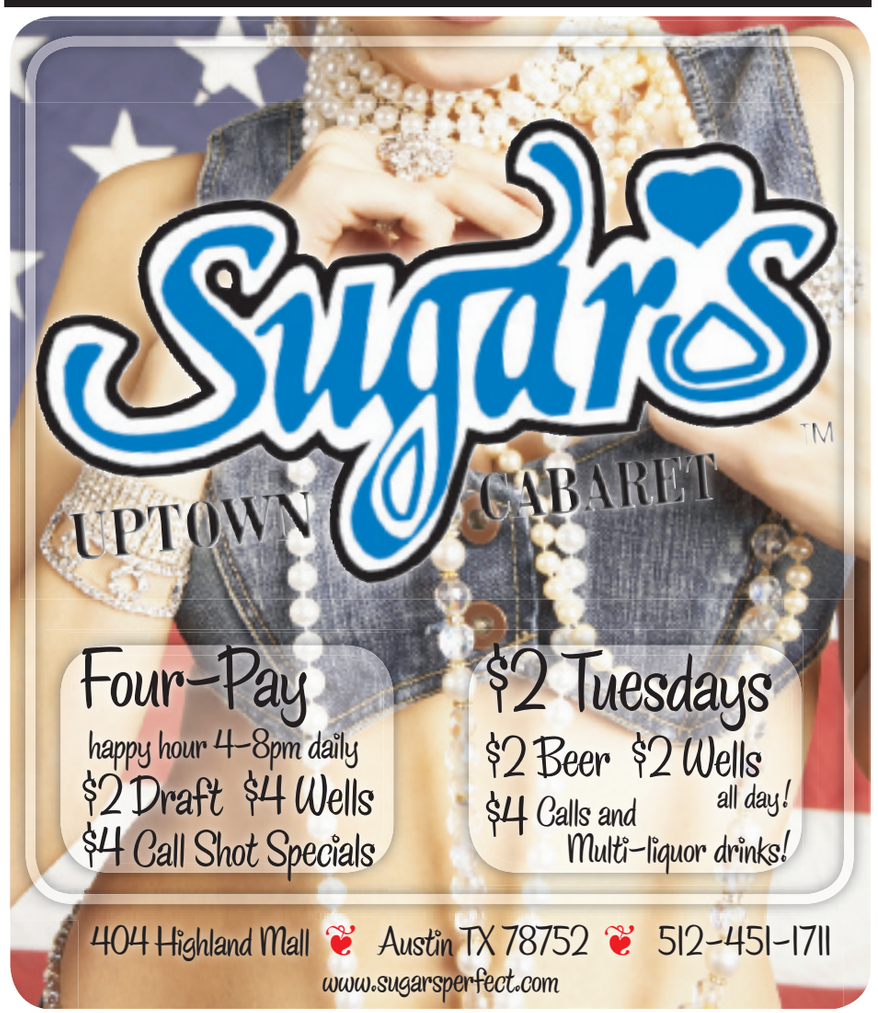
219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Adam Raven (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR The Southsiders (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Mike Vernon (12:30)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 John X. Reed, Speedy Sparks, Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB McClain Project, Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Karaoke w/ Edie Castillo (7:00)
BEAUTY BAR Stay Gold
BEERLAND Hibachi Stranglers, Wax Museums, Cheap Time, Nobunny, the Reds, the Spits
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Tish Hinojosa (8:30)
THE CARILLON Conspirare Christmas Concert w/ Craig Hella Johnson, Cynthia Clawson (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Blank Tapes; Goodnight, Fish, Narrow Escapes
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Kazki, the Flying Club, Topaz (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Brian Keane, Rachel Loy (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Billy Dee, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends
EMO'S Skeleton Key, U.S.S.A., Chemlab
EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis
FLAMINGO CANTINA Joker, Adrian & the Sickness, the Addictions
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Gretchen Phillips, Jodi Adair (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer & the AM Band
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Bobby Fuentes (6:30)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HEADHUNTERS Yeah Man, Spector 45, Streetlight Suzy
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Brian Kremer (9:15)
HOLE IN THE WALL Paul LeMond, James Bullard, Splithoof
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Victor Morales (8:00)
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Porter, Café Tacuba
THE LOADING DOCK Breezy
LUCKY LOUNGE Mike Maven & the Goodlife (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MOMO'S Patrice Pike, Dedringers, Dave Madden, Ricky Stein
ODD FELLOWS HALL Pops Bayless, Li'l Rev (7:30)
ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)
THE PARISH Meridian West
THE PARLOR Taunto
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Weldon Henson CD Release
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ron "Tater Salad" White
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Abra Moore (7:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Eddy Maine
ROOM 710 Seven Black Tornadoes, Lamar Murphy, Electric Pickle, Earth Dies Screaming, Damp Heat
SAXON PUB Denim, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Rachel Stacy
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Run on Sentence, Silver Pines
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SOUND ON SOUND Nobunny (6:00)
SPEAKEASY LaVonne, Brandon McHose Band (10:00)
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TRIPLE CROWN George Kinney & the Cedar Creekers, Mochate
TROPHY'S Mr. Glass, the Dialtones, No Show Ponies
VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*









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INSIDE THU 29 NOV — VAMPIRE WEEKEND
BRAZOS, BUFFALO BREATH

INSIDE FRI 30 NOV — PARTYENDS.COM PRESENTS ...
ASTRONAUTALIS
LISTENER PROJECT • TRANSMOGRAPHY

INSIDE SAT 01 DEC — TIA CARRERA
MOSES & THE BURNING BUSH

INSIDE TUE 04 DEC — GRACKLE TUESDAY
W/BUTTERCUP (9-11PM)

INSIDE WED 05 DEC — FRANK SMITH
THE ARCHIBALDS • A BAND CALLED NAME

OUTSIDE THU 06 DEC — KITTY KITTY BANG BANG
MEE-OOWWW!

OUTSIDE FRI 07 DEC — CAR STEREO (WARS)
& STRUT BOUTIQUE PRESENT
WHITE DENIM, THE CARROTS, & CORTO MALTESE

IN & OUTSIDE SAT 08 DEC — EARLY: TEAM SLEEP, SONNY MONSTER IN THE MACHINE, STRATA
LATE: YIP YIP (SAF RECORDS)
PATAPHYSICS, LOW RED CENTER

INSIDE TUE 11 DEC — GRACKLE TUESDAY
W/ BUTTERCUP (9-11PM)

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THU, NOV 29 BERNIE CALLOTE BAND 10:30PM
FRI, NOV 30 LC ROCKS 10PM
SAT, DEC 1 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
6:30 & 9:30PM
NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE
THE RED WAVE 10PM
CORD 11PM
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS DJ TETSUO
$3 YOU CALL IT
MON, DEC 3 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
6:30 & 9:30PM
NO ENTRY FEE
WED, DEC 5 BREWER NATION 8PM
THU, DEC 6 BOOMBOX 10PM
FRI, DEC 7 GREASY LITTLE TOES 10PM
SAT, DEC 8 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
6:30 & 9:30PM
NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE
PRIVATE PARTY 9PM
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS DJ TETSUO
$3 YOU CALL IT
MON, DEC 10 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
6:30 & 9:30PM
NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE

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FREE MUSIC HAPPY HOUR!
6:30 MEAGAN TUBB & THE SHADY PEOPLE
9PM TOAST
DIMITRI $ ASCENT,
JABARVY

FRI 11/30
6PM TIL 9PM FREE SHOW!!!
THE ADVENTURES OF
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9:30 PM NICK D. PRESENTS:
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MON 12/03
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8:30 PM Kalu James

TUE 12/04
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6 PM Poetry Open Mic
9 PM Music Open Mic
8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

WED 12/05
7 PM Cynthia McKinney
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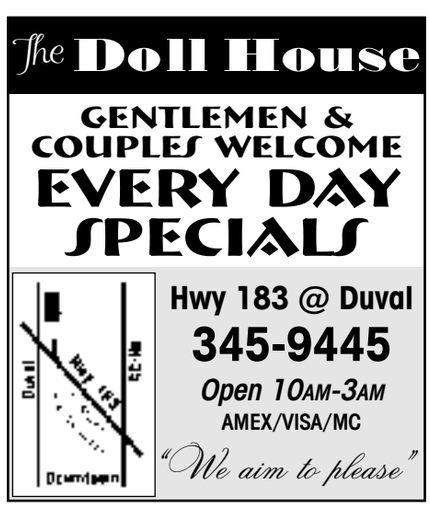
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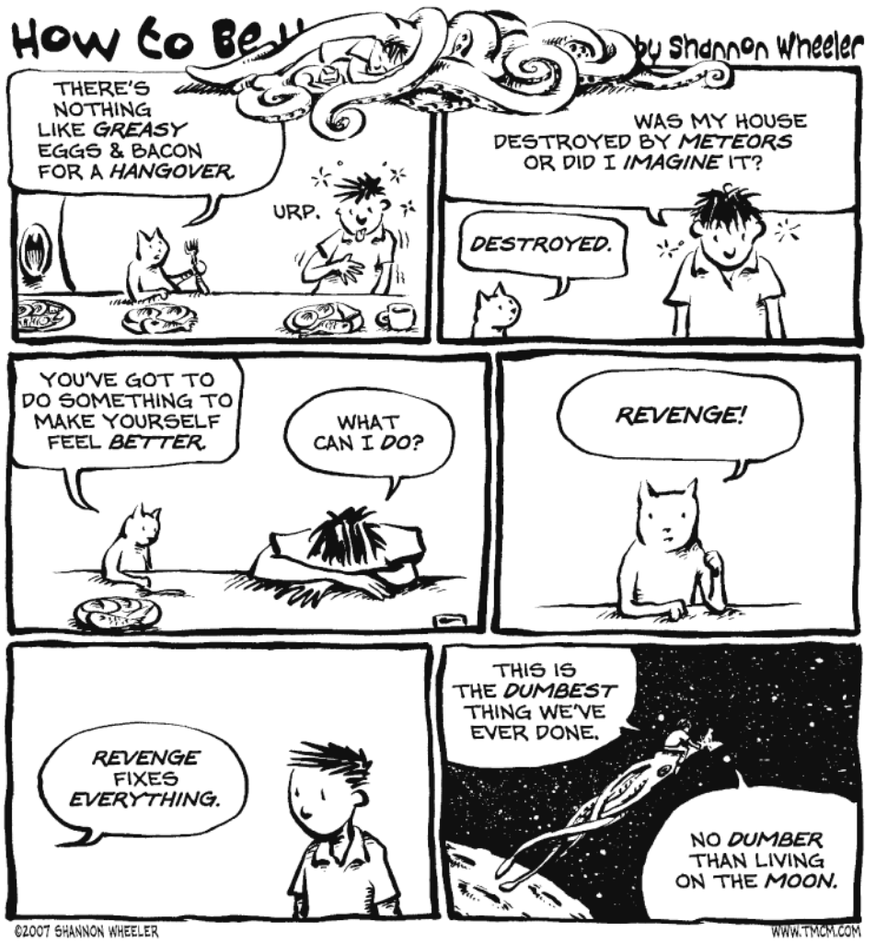
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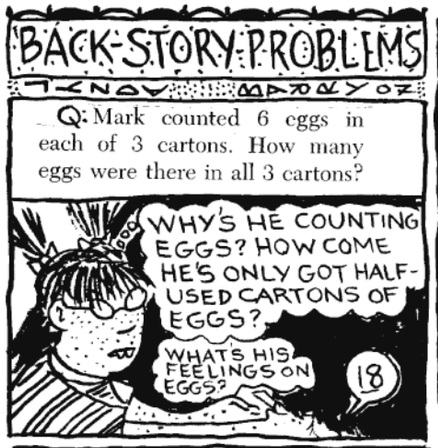
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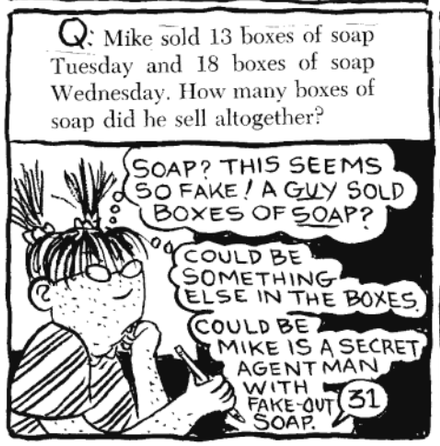
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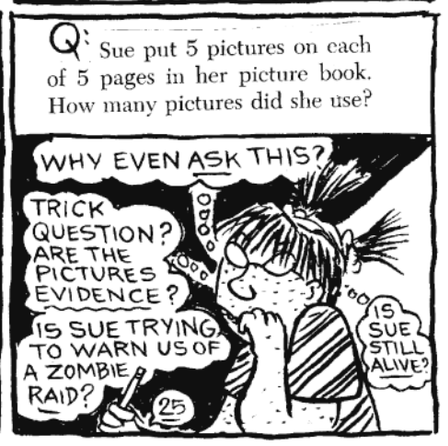


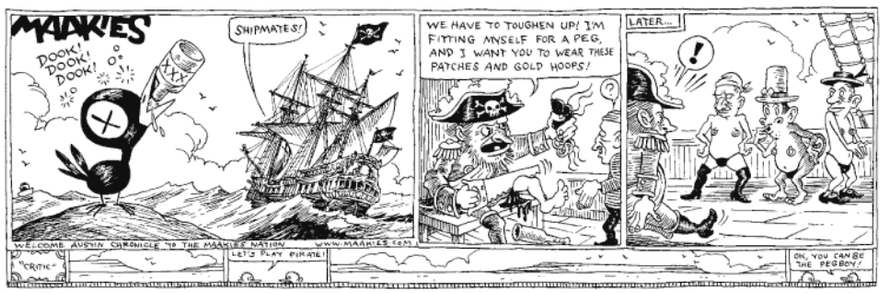












MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



The U.S. Department of Transportation has estimated that if we converted one-third of our passenger cars and light trucks to diesel, we'd reduce our oil consumption by up to 1.4 million barrels of oil per day – the amount we import from Saudi Arabia.

Scientists say pedestrians walking during evening rush hour are three times more likely to be struck and killed by cars than before the daylight saving time change.

According to *Forbes* magazine, the world's most expensive chocolate truffle, hand-rolled by Knipschildt of Norwalk, Conn., costs $250 per 1.9 ounce piece. It contains a real truffle.

The Great Wall of China was built by different dynasties over hundreds of years. But the Mings re-engineered the wall into the colossal structure it is today. They used stone and brick as the wall's facing. A crude mortar of burnt lime and sticky rice created a seal between bricks that rivals modern cement in strength.

Scientists in Singapore have developed a biodegradable credit card-sized battery that uses human urine as the electrolyte solution. Its voltage is about the same as a AA battery.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail **mrpants@austinchronicle.com**.

TRADE UP CLASSIFIEDS

454-5767

austinchronicle.com/tradeup

100 JOBS

110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/ Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING

210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/ Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/ TRADE

310 Antiques/ Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/ Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/ Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/ Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES

410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NEIGHBORHOOD

510 Activites
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS

Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages

Please check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs. *The Austin Chronicle* is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. *The Austin Chronicle*'s liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm
Phone: 512-454-5767
Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com



110 ART/DESIGN

ART

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Expanding National Art & Decorating Company seeks enthusiastic women & men for our 90 day mgmt. training program. You must enjoy a casual atmosphere, travel, & making money.

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Ph 576-4683.SO-LA District.

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease $130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

ALL Hair Stylist, Nail tech, Massage Therapist Full-time or Part-time. Between UT and Capitol. Call Mary 477-7068

HAIRSTYLIST Tired of chair rental & supply hassles? How about a $750 Sign-on Bonus, Guaranteed Pay, Commissions, Walk-in Clientele, Insurance, Vacations, Holidays, Continual Training, and Management opportunities. Call Chris today to discuss your future. (512) 750-5065

HAIRSTYLIST Room for rent in hair salon, Ideal for independent stylist. UT area, $520, ABP, 477-9166.

120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

FRONT FEST PLAY Casting 2 parts in short fringe. White middle-aged gritty ex-con male. 40's mentally ill woman. Please call 243-7906.

125 GENERAL

ALL Computer literate individuals wanted for temporary work begining Dec. 17th through late January From $8 p/hr and up based on experience. Call 478-3334.

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HEALTH ATTENDANT Seeking reliable, energetic, cheerful individual. Full Time weekdays Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm. Home Health Attendant, experience preferred but will train. $12hr. Central West Austin. Call Alison for interview. No calls after 6pm please. 512-371-3036.

LINE COOK Ringers Sports Lounge is looking for experienced line cooks. Apply at 415 Colorado after 4pm. 495-1558 ask for JR

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/ customer service. Earn up to $150 a day. Call 800-901-9370. (AAN CAN)

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in NC, TN, GA, FL, VT, NH and RI. Year-round residential position, free room & board, competitive salary/ benefits. Info and apply online: http://www.eckerdyouth.org. Or fax resume to Career Advisor/ AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/ DFWP (AAN CAN)

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Extend-A-Care for Kids

Gain experience in the afternoons with elementary age kids. Position includes paid ongoing training, and the opportunity to work on 64 school campuses. Spanish speakers needed. Work hours 2:15-6:15 p.m. M-F. Starting pay $9.00-$9.80/hr. EOE. Apply at
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or download an application from www.eackids.org,
or call 472-9929 x408.

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EARN GREAT MONEY!! FUN JOB at ZACHARY SCOTT THEATRE!

Looking for Phone Sales and/ or Fundraising Representatives. Verifiable experience required. Part-time evenings. Hourly pay PLUS commission and BONUSES! Email resume to brian@zachscott.com. No phone calls, please. NEW APPLICANTS ONLY!!

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135 HOSPITALITY

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

SUPPORT STAFF

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is now hiring for FT Support Staff for Village and S. Lamar locations.

Ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, & respectable business? We are currently looking to add to our team of badass employees! Line Cooks, Expos, and Bussers with exp. needed. PM availability/flexible schedule a must!

Submit applications for ALL locations to The Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 3012 East 6th St. M-Th after 4pm. Applicants must be 18+ to apply.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. EOE

ALL

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- PM BUSSER

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• WRAP ASSEMBLERS •
• CASHIER •
• SHIFT SUPERVISOR •

Prior restaurant exp. preferred. Must have a good work ethic, positive attitude, reliable transportation. Email: **babygreensfeedback@earthlink.net,** fax:**462-6096** or apply in person (M-F 3pm to 6pm) at **2316 S 1st Street.**

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

THEATER MANAGER

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Have you ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, & respectable business?

We are looking to add to our team of Bad Ass Theater Managers!

General Job responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Responsible for managing all aspects of the restaurant/theater, including the selection, development and performance management of restaurant/theater employees, optimizing profits and increasing sales. Manages scheduled shifts ensuring guest satisfaction. Manages all operational issues ensuring Alamo's standards of quality and service are met. If interested in this position, please send resume to constance@originalalamo.com

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. EOE

ALL POSITIONS

Current Full and Part Time Positions available at Barton Creek Resort & Spa

Apply in person Monday-Friday 8:30-5PM, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. Email resumes to jobs@bartoncreek.com or fax your information to 512-329-4014. Website: http://www.bartoncreek.com Barton Creek offers a complete benefits package & competitive wages. EOE

ALL
Tired of the same restaurant?

Try Japanese.

Potential for big money. Hiring waiters, busboys, and chefs.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.

KOBE japanese steakhouse

BARTENDERS BARTENDERS NEEDED: Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to $300 per shift. Call (800) 806-0082 ext. 200. (AAN CAN)

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to $300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

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MAKE BIG $$$

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and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35. 218-8012.

PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS/ COOK PIZZA CLASSICS: Now Hiring Delivery Drivers, and couponers. Up to $15/hr. Also hiring cook. Please apply in person at 604 W. 29th after 4PM.

RECEPTIONIST

Night Receptionist for Downtown Private Fine Dining Club - Mon-Sat 4pm to close. Ideal for student - some experience necessary.

Email resume to accounting@austinclub.com

SERVER Immediate waitstaff openings for Mama Fu's Lakeline, Southpark Meadows & The Triangle (opening Dec 15). Dinner servers needed, no tip-out & no experience necessary! Applications available at Lakeline & Southpark Meadows.

SERVER/HOST

Hiring servers and hosts at the Hula Hut. Apply in person Mon-Thurs. between 2-4.

RESTAURANT

SUSHI SAKE JAPANESE RESTAURANT

is now hiring the following FT and PT position for both the North and Downtown locations:

Sushi Chef and Sushi Chef Trainee, Waitstaff, Hostesses, Cashieres, Bartenders, Bussers, Line Cooks and Dish Washers.

Please apply in person at the North Location 9503 Research Blvd. #500 Austin, TX 75759. 512-527-0888

WAITSTAFF

BENIHANA

Looking for full-time server/assistant manager. Apply within M-F between 2-4. Call 452-1916

WAITSTAFF

Rack Daddys Sports Bar & Billiards now hiring. Call 512-252-3056 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy

145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Specialist Austin BBB Office seeks team-oriented individual for entry-level position. Respond to public inquiries, process complaints and be responsible for other administrative duties. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills. Bilingual a plus. Email resume/salary requirements: doxford@centraltx.bbb.org

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BROOKDALE
THE HERITAGE
at GAINES RANCH

Medication Aide – Part Time

The Heritage at Gaines Ranch, an upscale retirement community in South Austin is seeking part time Certified Medication Aides for our Assisted Living. Candidates must have a current certification in Medication Administration (CMA). The candidates for this position will have strong communication skills, be able to multi-task and be empathetic and energetic and have an affinity for working with a senior population. Come by in person to complete an application at 4409 Gaines Ranch Loop, or contact Shella Bycura 512-721-3125, e-mail sbycura@brookdaleliving.com.

GET PAID FOR CARING
$300 SIGN-ON BONUS
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Empowerment Options services people with mental retardation. Need Direct Care Staff to work F/T and P/T, various shifts in our Austin homes. Related experience a plus. Clean TX driver's license/criminal history required.

Call 512-338-4493
Apply in person at
1106 CLAYTON LN., STE 250W AUSTIN, TX 78723

EMPOWERMENT OPTIONS
Community Living Alternatives
"Our Mission - Your Right"

$1000 Sign-On Bonus
After 1 Year Employment!

Empowerment Options has an exciting opportunity for **RN** to provide and coordinate medical services to individuals with mental challenges for our Austin facilities. Experience in Home Health and Case Mgmt. is preferred. Salary negotiable, plus benefits. Some flexibility in schedule. Fax resume to Genelle at 512-338-1555 or email to Genelle@empowermentoptions.com
Come be a part of our caring team.
EOE

EMPOWERMENT OPTIONS
Community Living Alternatives
"Our Mission - Your Right"

HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?



Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

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BROOKDALE
THE HERITAGE
at GAINES RANCH

Nursing Assistant – Part Time

The Heritage at Gaines Ranch, an upscale retirement community in South Austin is seeking part time Certified Nurses Aides for our Assisted Living. Candidates must have a current certification in Texas. The candidates for this position will have strong communication skills, be able to multi-task and be empathetic and energetic and have an affinity for working with a senior population. Come by in person to complete an application at 4409 Gaines Ranch Loop, or contact Shella Bycura 512-721-3125, e-mail sbycura@brookdaleliving.com.

BROOKDALE
THE HERITAGE
at GAINES RANCH

Servers and Bussers

The Heritage at Gaines Ranch is looking for part time service staff for our 5 star Dining Room. Come join the Heritage at Gaines Ranch family where we enrich the lives of those we serve with compassion, respect, excellence, and integrity.

Servers $8.00/hr, PT-20 hrs/wk.
Bussers $7.50/hr, PT-20 hrs/wk.

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155 PROFESSIONAL

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Design Engineer (T28888); Design Engineer 2 (T28462); Design Verification Engineer (T28478); Device Analysis Engineer 2 (T23606); Device Technology Engineer (T23607); Factory Automation Engineer 2 (T28617); Failure/ Device Analysis Engineer 2 (T23606); Firmware Engineer 2 (T28616); MTS Systems Development Engineer (T28612); Principal Design Engineer (T28758); Prod. Development. Engineer (T28515); Prod. Development Engineer 2 (T28504); Program Manager (T28610); Quality Assurance Analyst 2 (T28615); Software Development Engineer 2 (T28620); Software Engineer (T28485); Software Engineer 2 (T28518); Solutions Marketing Manager (T28611); Sr. CAD Design Engineer (T28519); Sr. Design Engineer (T26264); Sr. Device Tech Engineer (T28603); Sr. Financial Analyst (T28618); Sr. MTS Product Development Engineer (T28619); Sr. Packaging Engineer (T28609); Sr. Process Development Engineer (T28602); Sr. Product Development Engineer (T28469); Sr. Program Management Analyst (T28614); Sr. Program Manager (T28613); Sr. Software Engineer (T28605); Sr. Technology & Integration Engineer (T28603); System Design Engineer 2 (T28608); Systems Development Engineer (T28600); Systems Development Engineer 2 (T28601); System Software Development Engineer 2 (T28601)

Submit resumes referencing the appropriate job title and code to AMD, M/S 672, 5204 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin, TX 78741. AMD is an EOE.

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Applied Materials, Inc. seeks a qualified professional for a position in the Austin, TX metro area:**Technical Support Engineer** (job code TSE-TX-N): Act as an intermediary between customer and factory; ensure the implementation of CEN's, BKM's, Safety Notices and retrofits; and communicate performance/reliability issues. BS & 3 years' exp.

Submit resume to **job_opportunities@amat.com. Must reference job code in subject line.** Applied Materials is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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160 RESEARCH STUDY

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- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

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- Tendency towards isolation
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Make a buck.

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Sun Dec 2-Tue, Dec 4

Mon, Dec 17-Tue, Dec 18

Outpatient visit Nov 21, Dec 5

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Make a buck.

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CEDRA CLINICAL RESEARCH, LLC

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DO YOU HAVE THE SIGNS?

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

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ALL

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MAKE A BUCK.

Every day, healthy people participate in investigational medication studies at CEDRA Clinical Research. Some do it to help future generations and some... to make a buck. Most studies involve overnight stays in our safe, friendly environment and offer physical screenings, meals, wireless internet, computers, satellite TV, video games, and pool tables. If you're generally healthy, call us today...even if the limelight's not your scene.

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FEELING GOOD The Mood Disorders Laboratory at the University of Texas is looking for males and females, 22 years and older, WITHOUT a history of anxiety or depression to participate in a study of attention and mood. Participants will be paid $15/hour up to $50. Those who qualify will complete an interview,questionnaires,and computer tasks. All information is completely confidential. For more info. contact us at: MDL@psy.utexas.edu or call the MDL at 475-6817.

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Help the Dems, HRC, & Amnesty Int'l. Up to $16/hr w/guaranteed base, Flexible PT& FT schedules. Call 916-4001 for interviews. www.Telefund.com

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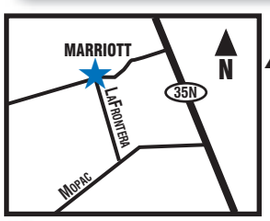
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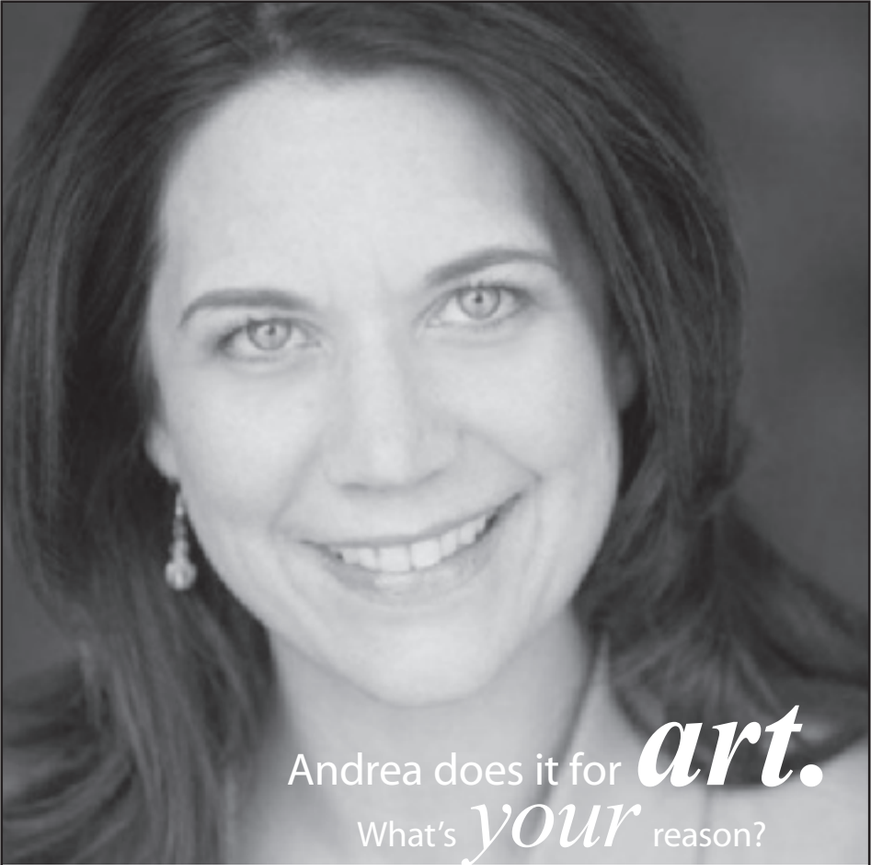
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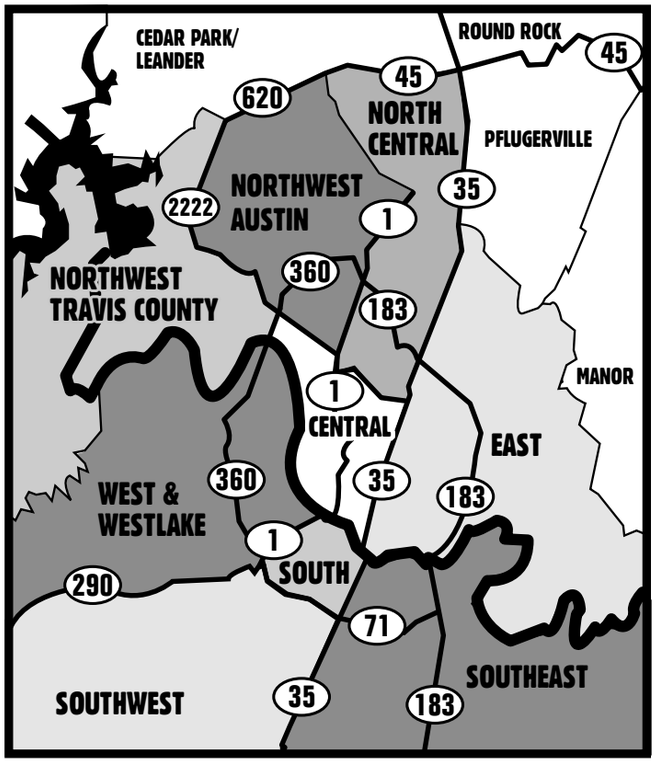
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CENTRAL 2-1 in nice 4-plx. 2013 Cullen Ave, remodeled clean, HVAC,W&D,pets neg. $775/mo Linda(ag.)423-6843

CLARKSVILLE 1-1.5 condo on 9th & Winflo. Stacked washer/dryer. Fireplace. Updated kitchen. Avail. Mid-December. $1150.00. The Taylor Company 973-9000.

EAST -Central 2-1 dplx. 1213 EM Franklin. Recent remodel central HVAC $700/mo pets neg. Linda (ag.) 423-6843.

DELWOOD 4-2 home on Northridge. 2 car garage. Fenced yard. Formal living w/ bonus room upstairs. Sec 8 acceptable. Available now. $1350.00. The Taylor Company. 973-9000.



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220 DUPLEX/HOUSES

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MANOR Beautiful 3 bed, 2.5 bath home on corner lot in Presidential Meadows! $1250 plus dep. and references. Nate 512 905 5337

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Hire movers.
Install toilet.
Hire designer to set up website.
File taxes.
Learn Spanish.
Where to start?

The Austin Chronicle's Service section.

230 COMMERCIAL

SOUTHWEST Well-established, counseling, nonprofit seeks to sublease suite. One year 9 months left on lease. Reception office + 3 offices. 1000 sq. ft. Easy access off IH 35; S. Fountain Park Plaza I Office Building. Free Parking. Sublease must be approved by management company.

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SOUTHWEST Renting a room in my home located near Wm Cannon and South 1st. Rent is $550, all bills paid including wireless and cable. Have two sweet dogs, will consider a pet. Call 825-0994 or poetdelrio@earthlink.net

240 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ALL 50 acre organic farm, 30 min. from Austin. Barns, cabins, well, electricity, ponds, trees, AG exempt, $269k. For sale by owner 512-858-0747.

ALL Whether you are buying, selling, or leasing, call me first! Sara with Austin City Living. 740-6888 or sarah@austincityliving.com. www.austincityliving.com

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CEDAR PARK Foreclosure! 4/2.5/2, $159,900, $0 Down, $2100 Total Move In! Average Credit ok! Tile, Community Pool, Built 2001, 2717 Square Feet. Steve, Broker, 512-785.3230. www.Texas-State-Realtors.com

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Open House Sunday, 12/2 2-4pm



4 Bedroom/ 2 Bathrooms Breakfast Area, Breakfast Bar, Granite/Marble Counters. Large open family room with wall of builts-ins, recently refinished hardwood floors, and high ceiling! Opens to breakfast room, kitchen and private covered deck. Master suite includes large master bath-new tile floor (2007), double vanities, large jetted tub, separate shower and large closet. Enjoy the woods, the privacy, and beautiful view from the private deck off the master suite. **$515,000 MLS#4616537**

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Fabulous Zilker Bungalow on corner lot with kitchen open to dining & living. Hardwoods, 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 full baths. Multiple decks for outdoor living, low maintenance xeriscape. 4th bed w/ bath could be converted back to eff. apt. or office.

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OWNER/AGENT WENDY, 512-916-0018



100 HAL SUTTON ROUND ROCK
Beautiful 1 year old home with oversize back yard and extended patio in Forest Creek. Upgraded kitchen counter tops. Entertainment and art niches. Formal dining and breakfast nook and an office/flex room.
3BED/2BATH, 2153 SQ F, $235K
Call Shannon (agent) w/questions 512-417-0412
OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY 1-4PM



1430 Colorado Bend, Cedar Park 4 bed/2 bath, 1964 sq ft, $175K. Call **Shannon** (agent) with questions: **512-417-0412**. 2005-built D.R. Horton home in Cedar Park Town Center. Almost 2K below tax assessed, move in ready with all appliances. Close before Christmas for $2,000 bonus to BA and $3,000 in BCC.

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This is a 2-1 house that has been updated. Hardwood floors, new shower in the bath, CA/CH & added a utility closet. The back house is not finished. It has a covered porch. Will be a 1-1 with washer/dryer connections. Upstairs is a bonus room with 1/2 bath. **The property is $334,000 in it's present condition. An additional $10,000 will finish the back house.**
CINDY SPEARS REALTOR/LANIER REALTY
512 825-4663

FRENCH PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD $279,700



3700 HOLLYWOOD AVENUE

HILLTOP OPEN HOUSE SAT. 3-5PM

3 bedroom, 2 bath home has recently refinished hardwoods, CACH, 6 year old roof, just re-plumbed & re-guttered. MLS#1396386. Call Mary or Tricia for more info ***(512)892-1999***

WWW.HILLTOPREALTYINC.COM



Pflugerville - 3 bed/2.5 bath/2 car - Great home, great neighborhood, great price ... game room, study, formal dining and nice backyard. Freshly Painted. Come see this one! **17611 Dansworth**
MLS# 8688162 **512.323.9006**
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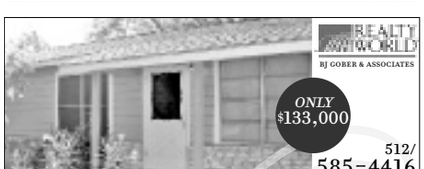
Austin, Lake Travis Area - Round Mountain Estates - 5 bed/ 4 bath/ 3 car - Sprawling 1 story exquisite home in a beautifully gated community. Huge covered outdoor living, chef's kitchen w/stainless appliances, granite & alder cabinetry. Huge Master suite, Minutes to Lake Travis- 1 Acre lot. Too many extras to list.. you have to see this one! MLS# 1711324
308 Bella Montagna Circle.
Call Echo Johnson at 799-3246 for more info on this listing. For thousands of Austin Area listings visit **www.AustinCityLiving.com**

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WENDY, 512-916-0018, KELLAS & ASSOCIATES



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Hyde Park OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY 1-4 PM
4705 Avenue F
3bd/2.5bth Blt in 2000 Hyde Park style home, with all the modern features and high quality, Hardwoods, built-ins, beautiful landscaping, playhouse/storage bldg,fireplace, sprinklers, covered porches and much more! MLS# 2644530.

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CENTRAL AUSTIN
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5516A WOODROW

New construction in central location-3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with Brazilian peacock verde countertops throughout. Custom Cherrywood cabinetry, built-ins & vanities. Stainless steel breakfast bar. Bosch gas stove w/convection oven. Large third floor roof top deck. Small project of only 2 units. $369,750. Call Mary or Tricia for more info ***(512)892-1999***

OPEN HOUSE SAT. 12-2PM WWW.HILLTOPREALTYINC.COM

LAKE WAY New Construction: 1 Acre, 4/3/2, Limestone, Granite Counters, Stainless appliances, Lake Austin boat ramp, Lake Travis ISD, Hill Country Views, Covered rear patio, Mature Oaks, 2480 Square Feet, Side entry garage, 2 year builder warranty! Steve, Broker, 512-785-3230 www.Texas-State-Realtors.com

NORTH Beautifully maintained townhome in NW Austin off McNeil. 2 story 2/1.5 w/carport, full sized W/D, FP. All tile floors down, new carpet up. Fresh, clean, bright. A real home to live in for years for only $115,700! CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

NORTH CENTRAL $153,000, In ground Pool! $0 Down, $2100 total move in! Average credit ok! All sides stucco, Totally remodeled, fresh paint in and out, recent roof, ceramic tile. Steve Broker, 512-785-3230. www.Texas-State-Realtors.com

PFLUGERVILLE $142,500, $0 Down, $2100 Total Move In! Average Credit ok! 3/2/2, 3 sides brick, built 1993, 1663 square ft, open MIL floor plan, entertaining area and covered patio in back yard, mature trees, upgraded flooring, Steve Broker, 512-785-3230 www.Texas-State-Realtors.com

SOUTH Sweet 2/1 condo 4 miles to downtown. Upstairs 850SF w/panoramic view to horizon. A/C replaced. HOA dues include cable, hot water, water, insurance, maintenance, etc. Reduced $10,000! $79,700. CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

SOUTH Cheapest good deal out there! Only $45,700 for this 1 bed condo in Woodlands II on Burleson (4 miles to downtown). Redone dark wood laminates, new white appliances, new A/C. Payments will be under $500 total!!! CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

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DOG lishanicole779@yahoo.com

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525 EVENTS

REPTILE EXPO 6th Austin Reptile and Amphibian Expo December 1 & 2, 2007. Wingate Inn and Conference Center, IH-35/Hwy 79. Come on out for quality captive bred reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates as well as books, cages, tools, feed, face painting, and handmade arts and crafts. Open 10am - 5pm. Over 50 tables! There will be several educational displays, including a native Texas reptiles display, and a venomous reptile display! Raffles throughout the weekend benefiting the Austin Herpetological Society. Cages, books, toys, t-shirts, posters, equipment and supplies by ZooMed, and more. Admission is $7 per person, or $10 for both days. Children under 5 years of age get in free with an adult. Scouts or military in uniform receive a dollar off admission. Contact Tim Cole at (512) 83-SNAKE or check out the website at http://www.austinreptileexpo.com/.

530 GENERAL

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545 LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HELEN HOWARD STEWART, DECEASED, Cause No. 07-0539-CP4, in County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County, Texas.

MIRANDA G. GONZALES, applicant, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5th day of November, 2007 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said HELEN HOWARD STEWART, DECEASED, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse Annex in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Georgetown, Texas, this the 5th day of November, 2007.

NANCY E. RISTER, County Clerk
Williamson County, Texas
by /s/ Cindy E. Dawson
Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005790 To: JUANITA GARCIA and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the

the COMMON LAW
by **Luke Ellis**

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

RESIDENTIAL HOME BUSINESS – IS IT ALLOWED?

Let's be honest – at times everyone's neighbors do weird stuff. On some blocks the funky, eccentric neighbor is accepted in accordance with the "Keep Austin Weird" mantra. On other blocks, however, the activity is so far out-of-bounds that surrounding neighbors are left to wonder: Can they really do that? The next few weeks will address numerous questions received by "The Common Law" about suspect behavior from neighbors.

I live in a residential neighborhood. It looks like a neighbor on my street is running a small business out of his house. Sometimes he puts a small sign in his yard. Can the rest of us on the street stop him?

Possibly. Home businesses are highly regulated by the city. For example, businesses that are prohibited include auto-repair shops, equipment sales, and unlicensed massage parlors. Check out Austin City Ordinance 25-2-900 to determine whether your neighbor's business may be prohibited.

You should be able to prevent your neighbor from posting a commercial sign. The city of Austin prohibits advertising a home occupation by a sign in residential neighborhoods. Alternatively, the city of Austin does allow the following signs on private property temporarily: garage or yard sale, political, real estate, neighborhood meetings, lost or found pets, and contractors' signs.

My neighbor has had several garage sales recently. Best I can tell, she allows some of her friends use her house because they think the location is good. I'm tired of it and want them to stop. Can I do anything?

Yes. Austin residents are only allowed to conduct two garage or yard sales within one year. Anyone who conducts more than two garage sales in one year is considered to be running a business from home in violation of city ordinances.

If you think your neighbor is violating any of these statutes, it may help to talk with them about the potential violation. If the problem persists, you can call Austin's nonemergency line (311) to report the potential violation.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to **thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com**. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

Notice of Public Comment Period for the Draft of Travis County's Community Development Block Grant Program Year (PY) 2006 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

As part of Travis County's ongoing citizen engagement related to its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Travis County is making available to all interested citizens and organizations the draft of the 2006 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The current performance report covers a period from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, and describes progress made in achieving goals set forth in the 2006 Action Plan. The current performance report will be submitted to HUD to meet federal requirements for the CDBG.

The 15-day public comment period will begin at 8:00 am December 5, 2007, and end December 20, 2007 at 5 pm. The draft of the CAPER is available for review beginning December 5, 2007, on Travis County's website at www.co.travis.tx.us.

And at the following locations:

South Rural Community Center	3518 FM 973, Del Valle
Travis County Community Center	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D, Pflugerville
West Rural Community Center	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Oak Hill
Northwest Rural Community Center	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown
East Rural Community Center	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor
Palm Square Community Center	100 N. IH-35, Suite 1000, Austin
Post Road Community Center	2201 Post Road, Suite 101, Austin

A Public Hearing will be held to receive comments:

Location:	**Dates & Times:**
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St, Austin	Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 9:00 AM

Comments may be received in writing via mail or e-mail to:

CDBG Program, Travis County HHSVS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or **christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us**

Car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

HOW MUCH DOES PHANTOM GASOLINE COST?

Tom and Ray:

I recently saw an article on a website claiming that car owners should pump their gas in the morning, when it's cool out, instead of in the afternoon, when it's hot. The alleged reasoning is that gasoline expands at higher temperatures and contracts at lower temperatures, allowing more "dense" gas to be pumped when it's cold. I personally think this is nonsense, since a car's gas tank also will expand and contract and because gas stored in an underground 500-gallon tank probably doesn't warm by more than a few degrees. So, what is the truth to this? – Richard

RAY: Well, the expansion story is true, Richard. When gas pumps are calibrated, they're set to measure a gallon of gasoline that's 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

TOM: But when gasoline gets hotter than that, it expands. So you get less than a gallon's worth of energy for every gallon you pump. How much less? Well, the most recent congressional study we've seen found that the average temperature of gasoline sold in the United States is almost 65 degrees Fahrenheit. That means the average joe is paying an extra 3 cents a gallon for phantom gasoline.

RAY: What can be done about it? Well, you can fill up in the middle of the night. But a better solution would be to use pumps that compensate for temperature fluctuations. In Canada, where gasoline usually is *colder* than the standard – which is to the consumer's advantage – it was the gas stations that voluntarily backed a program to use those pumps. *Quelle surprise*, as they say in Quebec!

TOM: But here, where the gas stations are getting the extra money, they argue that retrofitting their pumps is too expensive. They say it would cost $1,500-3,000 per pump.

RAY: But with the value of the phantom gasoline sold adding up to more than $2 billion a year now, the pressure on the gas stations will probably continue to heat up. Now, if they'd agree to put that 3 cents a gallon toward clean bathrooms, maybe a compromise could be worked out here.

* * *

Tom and Ray offer a strategy for everyone who's shopping for a car. Find yours in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the *Car Talk* website at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

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Distributed by King Features Syndicate

LEGAL NOTICES

Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 19, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005790 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF VALERIANO MARTINEZ and JUANITA GARCIA".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 19, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ SCOTT WOODWARD, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

MARIA ELENA CASTILLO

900 SAVAGE RANCH RD

SEGUIN, TX 78155

BUSINESS PHONE: (830) 743-1693

FAX: (830) 639-4958

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Harris

To: ROBERT BRAIN STEGGE

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the **281ST** Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the **31ST** day of **DECEMBER 2007**, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the: **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, AFFIDAVIT FOR CITATION BY PUBLICATION.**

Filed in said Court on the **10TH** of **SEPTEMBER, 2007**, in a suit numbered **2007-22313** on the docket of said court, wherein **DAWN ABRAM** Plaintiff(s) and **ROBERT BRAIN STEGGE** Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition is alleging: **PERSONAL INJURY AUTO**

Notice of hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the **17TH** day of **DECEMBER 2007** in some newspaper published in the County of **HARRIS**, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the **17TH** day of **DECEMBER, 2007** which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same

WITNESS: CHARLES BACARISSE, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this **5TH** day of **NOVEMBER, 2007.**

Newspaper: **AUSTIN CHRONICLE**

Issued at the request of **JOHN A CARWILE**

Address: **15311 VANTAGE PRKWY WEST STE 307 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77032**

THERESA CHANG, District Clerk

Harris County, Texas

201 CAROLINE, Houston, Texas 77002

P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

By: /s/ DEPUTY: **TRACEY MITCHELL**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005815 To: ANGEL LOPEZ GUTIERREZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 9, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005815 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUADALUPE FONTES and ANGEL LOPEZ GUTIERREZ".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 09, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Arlice Harris, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

ANDREA BELENO

4920 IH 35

AUSTIN, TX 78751

(512) 374-2700

(512) 447-3940

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of **BARTON CREEK BLVD. & TRAVIS COOK RD. IMPROVEMENTS (IFB No. B080027-LP),** include roadway realignment, reconstruction and widening, in Precinct 3 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, **until 2 p.m., December 12, 2007,** then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the official clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid BARTON CREEK BLVD. & TRAVIS COOK RD. IMPROVEMENTS (IFB No. B080027-LP)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Travis County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

As required by Chapter 2253 of the Texas Government Code, a payment bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a performance bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $100,000.00 for contracts for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building, or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Chapter 605 of the Texas Government Code (Hours of Labor).

Plans, specifications, and detailed bid forms are available at the Travis County Purchasing Office, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a $25.00 deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County." This deposit will be refundable to bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty one days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total contract price.

Final payment for the above construction project will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

DENISE LYMAN

VIN# JF1GC2447PK511207

PLATE: 107WDF

1993 SUBARU WAGON

EDWARD BALDERAS

VIN#1FTZX18W5WKB38700

PLATE: 09LKW2

1998 FORD F-150

AUCTION: December 7, 2007 @ 6:00 AM

About Town Towing

2905 W. Howard Lane

Austin, TX 78728

(512) 837-0000

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285

9717 US HWY 290 E

Austin, TX 78724

512-278-1220

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 @ 9:00 AM

AVISO PÚBLICO DE SOLICITUD DE COMENTARIOS SOBRE EL BORRADOR DEL INFORME ANUAL CONSOLIDADO DEL DESEMPEÑO Y EVALUACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA DE SUBSIDIO EN BLOQUE PARA EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO (CDBG) DEL CONDADO DE TRAVIS PARA EL AÑO PROGRAMÁTICO 2006

Como parte del proceso continúo de participación ciudadana dirigido por el Condado de Travis en relación al Subsidio en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG por sus siglas en inglés), el Condado de Travis pone a la disponibilidad de todos los ciudadanos interesados y organizaciones, un borrador del Informe Anual Consolidado del Desempeño y Evaluación (CAPER) del programa CDBG.

El informe de desempeño comprende el periodo del 1° de octubre de 2006 al 30 de septiembre de 2007, y describe el alcance de las metas establecidas en el Plan de Acción Anual del año programático 2006. Conforme a lo establecido por los requisitos federales del programa CDBG, este documento será presentado ante el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU.

El período de comentarios públicos durará 15 días, comenzando a las 8:00 a.m. el 5 de diciembre de 2007 y terminando a las 5: 00 p.m. el 20 de diciembre de 2007. A partir del 5 de diciembre de 2007, el borrador del informe de desempeño estará disponible al público en la página web del Condado de Travis www.co.travis.tx.us.

Y en los siguientes sitios:

Centro Comunitario Rural del Sur	3518 FM 973, Del Valle
Centro Comunitario del Condado de Travis	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D, Pflugerville
Centro Comunitario Rural del Oeste	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Oak Hill
Centro Comunitario Rural del Noroeste	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown
Centro Comunitario Rural del Este	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor
Centro Comunitario de Palm Square	100 N. IH-35, Suite 1000, Austin
Centro Comunitario de Post Road	2201 Post Road, Suite 101, Austin

Se realizará una audiencia pública para recibir comentarios:

Lugar:	**Fecha & Hora:**
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St, Austin	Martes, 11 de diciembre de 2007 a las 9:00 AM

También se recibirán comentarios por escrito, por correo postal o correo electrónico a:
CDBG Program, Travis County HHSVS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 o a **christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us**

AV1213 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

DECEMBER 13, 2007 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

073160515	1995	CHEV	4DR	X54CWK	TX	2G1WL52MXS9295138
073160670	1996	CHEV	4DR	V33DCF	TX	2G1WL52M5T9126288
075061357	1987	NISS	2DR	626LCD	TX	JN1HZ14S8HX200656
075061360	1996	CHRY	2DR	G10VRM	TX	4C3AU42N8TE423427
075061366	1990	MERC	4DR	L82TSX	TX	2MECM74F8LX621998
075061371	1978	DODG	PK	5MSG70	TX	D34BF8S173753
075061378	1998	TOYT	4DR	518RNY	TX	JT2BG22K3W0258691
075061379	1997	FORD	VN	35LXH2	TX	1FTFE24L5VHB38430
075061382	1994	GEO	2DR	W19KJT	TX	2C1MR2464R6797601
075061386	1998	NISS	PK	32ZXX5	TX	1N6DD21S5WC338290
075061415	1994	FORD	4DR	N21BFX	TX	3FARP13JXRR138807
075061417	1988	BMW	4DR	M84ZFS	TX	WBADK8306J9885563
075061418	1992	OLDS	4DR	529TTH	TX	1G3CW53L2N4304395
075061419	1999	CHEV	4DR	685MSD	OK	3G1JF52T4XS826238
075061420	1994	FORD	4DR	X72RZY	TX	1FALP52UXRA263583
075061421	1990	PLYM	VN	121BDF	TX	1P4GH54R8LX150362
075061424	1993	MAZD	4DR	67A3624	IN	1YVGE22A0P5175311
075061425A	1988	DODG	LL	343ZPL	TX	3B4GD12Y4JM842170
075061425B	1980	PONT	2DR	NVX25L	TX	2W87TAL129283
075061523	1987	NISS	4DR	096LBH	TX	JN1HT2111HT035706
075061524	1995	STRN	2DR	Y84BNW	TX	1G8ZG1276SZ290403

232 Wanda Augustine: household goods, boxes

233 Dorothy Johnson: household goods

502 Pamela White: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip.

518 Chai Rich LLC: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

531 Herbert Patridge: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, office equip., account records, automobile

702 Omar Velasquez: household goods, furniture

6625 Erin Booker: furniture, boxes, appliances

6635 Leslie Abrahamsen: household goods, furniture, boxes

8829 Vanessa Spivey: household goods, furniture, appliances

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78753

512-833-0855

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 @ 10:00 AM

729 Stephany McCray: household goods, furn., boxes, bags

956 Rosario Lagunes: household goods, boxes, furn.

951 Robert Rivera: household goods

1105 Catherine Williams: household goods, boxes, furniture, tools, tv, stereo

803 Starks Mike: household goods, boxes, tv, appliances, tools, furniture

511 James Rogers: household goods, boxes, tv or stereo equip., tools, furniture, motorcycle, sporting goods

Uncle Bob's #276

2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd.

Round Rock, TX 78664

512-310-0279

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 @ 11:00 A.M.

123 Laura A. Garza: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

2133 Richard Vasquez: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2235 Regina Sanchez: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, landscaping equip., account records

2304 Ruben Ysasi: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2307 Kenneth Jones: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., landscaping equip.

2402 Jason Dillard: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, landscaping equip., account records

2406 Charles Haddock: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

3108 Phyllis L. Jenkins: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3124 Scott Bankston Greater Austin Moving: household goods

5101 LaVerne Petty: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

5115 Tandi Martin: household goods, furniture, boxes

5128 Thomas Bowie: household goods

5129 Thomas Bowie: household goods

5405 Brittany Pokorny: boxes of covers and small TV's

6420 Krista Miner: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

7306 Casey Edick: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., 3 go carts, trailer

7308 Brittany Pokorny: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip.

7414 Essie Ramahi: furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

8318 Travern Escamilla: furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., computer bags

9111 Ernesto Galindo: household goods, furniture, boxes

9202 Pauline McGraw: household goods, boxes

9404 Doris Malveaux: household goods, boxes, giftwrapping supplies

9411 Joshua M. Wells: household goods

9501 Nichole Millett: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines

9507 Nichole Millett: boxes, computer equipments

9653 Marissa Gonzales: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr.

Austin, TX 78729

(512)336-8390

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 @ 12 noon

408 Carl Harvey: household goods, furniture, boxes

821 Katalin Hausel: boxes, lumber

1113 Gregory Pearson: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

1325 Brad Osborne: computer equip.

2215 Frank Jeff Hendrickson: furniture, boxes, tools, construction equip.

2229 Joyce Walthour: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #198

10307 FM 2222

Austin, Texas 78730

(512) 372-9046

Tuesday, December 18 2007 @ 1:00 P.M.

654 Claire Milam: household goods, boxes

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South 1st Street

Austin, TX 78745

(512) 326-9696

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 @ 1:30 P.M.

117 Paulo Casillas: furniture, tools, appliances

123 Walker David: household goods, furniture, boxes

226 Rendsland Paul: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

245 Derek Thyssen: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances

248 Arrellono Felipe: tools, TV's or stereo equip.

358 Maria Courtney: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools

379 Derek Thyssen: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances

320 Bruno Jr. Zuniga: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

353 Aranna Acosta: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

2333 Tracy Robinson: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

3106 Johnson William: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip.

3341 Tracy Mercado: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

3112 Claude Dyke: household goods, furniture, boxes

NOTICE OF SALE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage location listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only. Auction will take place December 18, 2007 10:30am at Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St. Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-990-1000. Unit # 560 Rafael Delarosa, weight set, pool table, 2 refrigerators, washer, 2 beds with frames, punching bag, stereo, table, 50 boxes, 6 plastic tubs. Unit # 814, Anthony Elmore, tools, tool chest, washer, dryer, sofa, 3 televisions, bed, 40 boxes. Unit #306, Jermell Modkins, sofa, loveseat, stuffed chair, 4 dining table chairs, 1 card table. Unit # 117, Christina Favre, table and chair.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA CADWELL, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87390, styled Estate of Virginia Cadwell, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters of independent administration were issued on November 6, 2007, to Terry W. Cadwell.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the Estate in care of his attorneys at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty,

Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: Patricia A. Campbell

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 20th day of November, 2007.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

512.480.5625 Telephone

512.480.5825 Fax

By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell

State Bar ID No.: 03714100

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GLORIA D. SIMMANG, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Gloria D. Simmang, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2007, in Cause No. 87619 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Sally LaFrentz, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Sally LaFrentz, Independent Executor, Estate of Gloria D. Simmang, Deceased

7200 North Mopac, Suite 300

Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Don E. Walden

State Bar No. 20672800

7200 North Mopac, Suite 300

Austin, Texas 78731

(512) 349-9595

(512) 795-8079 Fax

Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARIE L. KING aka SUSIE MARIE KING, DECEASED NOTICE is hereby given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of MARIE L. KING aka SUSIE MARIE KING, DECEASED, were granted to GAIL LERCHE on November 20, 2007, by Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. 87,659.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and before said estate is closed, in care of ATTORNEY RICHARD W. CHOTE, 3305 Northland Drive #500, Austin, Texas 78731.

GAIL LERCHE

Independent Executor

Estate of MARIE L. KING aka SUSIE MARIE KING, DECEASED

By: RICHARD W. CHOTE

Attorney at Law

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HARLEY WEBSTER DAWSON, JR, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of Harley Webster Dawson, Jr., Deceased, were issued on November 9, 2007, in Cause No. 87328 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Phyllis Johnson-Watson, a resident of Travis County, Texas.

The mailing address for the presentment of claims is:

c/o Krista A. Chacona

The Law Office of Krista A. Chacona

1004 West Avenue

Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 27th day of November, 2007.

Krista A. Chacona

State Bar No. 24029478

Attorney for Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF JACKIE SUE CHILDERS A/K/A JACKIE CHILDRESS, Deceased, were issued on October 29, 2007, in Cause No. 07-0384-CP4, pending in the Probate Court, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, Texas, to: ALISA BUBEL.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: TERRY L. BELT

Attorney at Law

4407 Bee Caves Road,

Suite 611

Austin, Texas 78746

DATED the 21st day of November, 2007.

/s/ Terry L. Belt

Attorney for The Estate of Jackie Sue Childers a/k/a Jackie Childres

State Bar No.: 021009500

4407 Bee Cave Road,

Suite 611

Austin, Texas 78746

Email: beltlaw@yahoo.com

Telephone: (512) 327-7360

Facsimile: (512) 732-2731

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 27, 2007, Patricia A. Rhodes qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Annette F. Alvord, Deceased, in Cause No. 87,594, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Administrator is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Patricia A. Rhodes

Independent Executor of the Estate of Annette F. Alvord

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 27, 2007, Sandra Lynn Escovitz Sack qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Louis Escovitz, Deceased, in Cause No. 87,591, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Administrator is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Sandra Lynn Escovitz Sack

Independent Executor of the Estate of Louis Escovitz

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROSALIO BARRON MARTINEZ, Deceased, were issued on November 1, 2007, in Cause No. 86782, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Erline Moreno-Martinez.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered

Four years in a row!!!!! Not just in the top ten, not somewhere in the top five, but simply voted ***THE BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP IN AUSTIN!!!*** **Four years running!!! Thanks Austin!!!**

the auto depot

909 Prairie Trail
836-9767, Mon- Fri 8am-6pm
294-2885, evenings/weekends
www.autodepotaustin.com

CARS FOR SALE

1994 Pontiac Bonneville, Wrecked in front, runs, good motor, tranny, 100k, a "fixer-upper." $350.

1995 Mercedes 320E, Four door, looks, drives perfectly. 56,000k.

1995 Civic DX tudor, 5 speed, new motor AC, warranty, $2950.

1998 Lexus ES300, An immaculate car that came to us with suuspension damage. Professionally repaired, like new, can trade, warranty $7500.

1991 Mercedes 300SE, Recent complete overhaul with new timing chain, valve job. A classy classic that looks and drives excellently. Warranty, trade possible. $4950.

1992 Celica Convertible, In process of complete restoration. 127k. Full warranty, go with the top down and the tunes up. $4250.

1993 Honda Civic auto, 2 dr, EX, clean, drives perfectly. Recent 65 point check. Warranty. $2950.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. Leather, auto. Just installed a new motor, timing chain. Cosmetically, mechanically, a "10." recent 65 point check. $4850.

1997 Ford Ranger V6, 107k., just really clean with warranty. $3950.

2000 Toyota Solara, tudor, V6. Loaded. An extremely clean car that had cosmetic damage (fully repaired). Full warranty. Can trade. Dark green w/ biscuit leather. $6950.

1995 Toyota t100, reg. cab pickup. Faded paint, drives as new. AC. Warranty. Economical 4 banger. $2850.

1995 Accord, four door LX, one owner, 92k, super clean. Full warranty. Loaded with auto. Can trade $4950.

1996 Camry, Auto, 134k, looks and drives like new. Full warranty. $4900.

1997 Toyota 4Runner, SR5 package, leather, sunroof. Black on Black. 120k, $6750.

2002 Civic, Tudor, auto, LX, 72k, as a pin, warranty. $8950.

2003 Jaguar X-Type, 69k. Like new, in out. Can trade. Beautiful car. $11,900.

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CONTINUED 545

LEGAL NOTICES

are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Sarah Zottarelli

Attorney at Law

Estate of Rosalio Barron Martinez

405 W. 14th St.

Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 30th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Sarah Zottarelli

Attorney for Erline Moreno-Martinez

State Bar No.: 24033501

405 W. 14th St.

Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 477-9910

Facsimile: (512) 474-1810

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 20, 2007, Anthony E. Vance qualified as Independent Administrator without bond of the Estate of Mary Elizabeth Buck Vance, Deceased, in Cause No. 87,552, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Administrator is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Anthony E. Vance,

Independent Administrator of the Estate of Mary Elizabeth Buck Vance

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testmentary for the Estate of Vernice Chambers Campbell, also known as Belva Vernice Campbell, Deceased, were issued on November 15, 2007, in Cause No. 07-0576-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. FOUR, Williamson County, Texas, to: Donna Brady.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Martin J. Cirkiel

Attorney for Donna L. Brad

Cirkiel & Associates, P.C.

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

DATED the 19th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Martin J. Cirkiel

Attorney for Donna L. Brad

State Bar No.: 00783829

Cirkiel & Associates, P.C.

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

Telephone: (512) 244-6658

Facsimile: (512) 244-6014

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of

Gerald Wayne Cochran, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2007, in Cause No. 87601, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to:

Barbara Cochran.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Law Offices of Guy F. Gebbia, P.C.

1505 W. Koenig Lane

Austin, TX 78756

Dated the 20th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Guy F. Gebbia

Attorney for Barbara Cochran

State Bar No.: 07786380

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GUITAR Lead vocalist looking for lead and rhythm. Must sing and write. Rock/Blues rock. Previous work: Activator (www.myspace.com/6131099) el B (www.myspace.com/elbelb) Contact Jason 659-5847

FEMALE VOCALIST

Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes is holding auditions for a new female singer. This full-time working show band performs Motown, Disco, Pop, and Rock. You will sing leads, back-ups, and perform choreography. Send your head shots, demo cds and / or dvds to Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes, P.O. Box 33045 Austin, TX, 78764, Attn: New Tomato, All info sent becomes property of Rotel. Serious inquiries only.

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GUITAR Blues based, riff oriented Hard Rock guitarist needed to help create timeless, memorable songs that have roots which can be traced but aren't blatantly derivative. A stock pile of original riff ideas would be helpful. Influenced by Wilde/ Slash/Mars/Iommi/Cantrell. 21-30. Look like you belong in a band. Drama free. No hired guns. Please provide photo and sound clip of guitar skills. Cheers! ~Kris. 512-940-6669, ponyboyproductions@yahoo

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GODDESS OF LOVE
I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27, 📷, **#123960**

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE
I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **austingrl07**, 22, 📷, **#123569**

REWARDING DOM
Looking for a consistant submissive,not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are intrested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23, 📷, **#123509**

YES PLEASE MASTER
Submissive woman would love to find an honest Master to help me become the submissive that i can only dream of. **subntx**, 54, ☎, 📷, **#119874**

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN
i see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20, 📷, **#119431**

LIBRARIAN LOVER
In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS
I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 22, 📷, **#119045**

WOMAN WANTING PARADISE
We're creating paradise for a special woman that would love to join us. There is 16 acres of land and being naked is such a plus. **LoversNParadise**, 35, 📷, **#124199**

WHATYOUNEED
we are a nice couple i am 22 and he 20 i have experience and he does not i wish to share and show so if interested. **bandj**, 22, 📷, **#120784**

WANNA JOIN US?
We're a couple, he is 31 she 22 and we're looking for someone to join us for a little fun. Looking for women who share the same fantasies and lifestyle. **txmxgoddess**, 22, 📷, **#123997**

HOT VIXEN PLAYMATE
I am a very attractive woman, tall, blonde and very sexual...Looking for a female playmate to share fun girl on girl times while my hot boyfriend watches the fun... **mitzifenmore**, 38, 📷, **#123847**

NEED THIRD WHEEL
My wife and I are looking for a third in our circle. Looking for someone to have some fun with. Need to be very sexual. **tongueofjoy**, 29, 📷, **#123619**

LET'S SEE
We are 28/33,he is smokin'and so is she!We are ready to see what's out there.We have pics, so reply with your pics and you'll get them. Let's have some fun! **Something4Us**, 29, 📷, **#123521**

BEAUTY AND BEAST
we are a loving married couple who would like to find an attractive woman between the ages of 19 and 26 thats looking for a one time only fun experience. **peachesncreme**, 20, 📷, **#123452**

SEX FEEN
fun, sexual couple looking for another woman to have a good time with. Not picky just want someone add some more spice to our sex life. **sexcoup07**, 22, 📷, **#123187**

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON
bi-curious, sexy, stylish, feminine, exotic woman. looking for adventures with sexy guys and feminine girls. Chemistry is a must. I long for sophistication more than anything else. **mnemosyne**, 31, 📷, **#124135**

DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS
Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **Izzy11**, 31, 📷, **#117594**

LESBIAN LOVE
I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19, 📷, **#123524**

PINUP SEXXXY FEMME
bi-sexual femme with a flair for all things retro. i love burlesque, pinup, and fifties fashions. come play with me? **atxbibabe**, 29, 📷, **#123507**

KINKY BOOK LOVER
I'm just a kinky nerdy girl looking for some kinky nerdy sex. Can you flog me while you make me conjugate Latin verbs? If so, we should meet! **Plagosa**, 25, 📷, **#123241**

LITERATURE OBSESSED TOMBOY
I'm looking for people to hang out with who can hold a conversation while drinking. Though I'm usually too nice, sarcasm is still a must. **LezClassicist**, 24, 📷, **#123323**

OPEN RELATIONSHIP
26yro, 5'3, 140, athletic, Brn/Brn, MWF. In an open relationship. Laid-back, flexible and love to laugh. Seeks discreet, fun and safe sexual encounter(s) with a woman. **Pierce**, 27, 📷, **#123112**

ATTRACTIVE, INEXPERIENCED, BI-CURIOUS
Attractive,mid 40's/5'3/110lbs,hispanic female,married d/d/free,looking to explore with another woman also bi-curious and inexperienced.Prefer attractive, d/d/free,open minded, height/weight proportionate hispanic/caucasian female. Must be willing to occasionally include my shy handsome husband. **davn**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#120088**

GIRL PLAYMATES
Sexy femme girl looking for the same to play. I'm into fashion and style and I prefer girls who share the same interest. **Catwalk**, 30, 📷, **#119900**

A ZAFTIG CHALLENGE
Looking for something fun, exciting, and dirty. Someone who can teach me a lesson. who's in to anything. make me crave you...what would you do to me? **cat_with_an_island**, 26, 📷, **#121873**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER
You-looking for fun first and formost with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Just average people looking for an above average time ;) Prefer sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 31, ☎, 📷, **#121712**

A BIT COMPLICATED
Open-minded,intelligent people who love to laugh.She's a BBW,so another smart, curvy girl would fit in perfectly. We also both have a fantasy of finding that special T-Girl to get to know. **Lifeneedsmore**, 36, ☎, 📷, **#119936**

FOOT/WS SLAVE
Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **MaleFootSearch**, 46, ☎, 📷, **#123872**

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SEXUAL ARTIST
Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#121616**

HARD BLACK
I'm 24, 5'9", 200, ddf, clean respectful man. Looking to explore what the world has to offer me. Need some new kink in my life. **choklat_thundr**, 24, 📷, **#123854**

LOOKING TO EXPERIMENT
Serial monogomist, looking to explore, be explored, and experiment. Can be shy, but I'm open for trying things. Man/woman or man/woman/woman. intimate encounter or fun relationship. **cyrano**, 27, 📷, **#123432**

MAN'S LADY'S MAN
Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42, 📷, **#123387**

SENSUALITY, IMAGINATION!
I'm looking for sensual women and couples who have few inhibitions and enjoy slowing down for sensuous encounters and open-ended sexual play. MFM 3somes, couple swaps & orgies. Yes! **sexytouch**, 53, 📷, **#122925**

WANTING IT ALL
I'm 39, 5í3ì, 165 lb male w/starving sex drive. Recently free to fulfill all pleasures. Looking 4 right person/couple to explore what I've been missing. Bi-curious looking 4 discrete encounters. **forfunexcitement**, 39, 📷, **#122318**

MAKE YOU SCREAM!
Looking for someone to have fun with, see where things go. A roommate with benefits or a kinky girlfriend or TS girlfriend (or friend w/ benefits) would be great. **Metalopn**, 26, 📷, **#122364**

SUB BI MALE
Hi! Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, descrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 43, ☎, 📷, **#122208**

TXSIZELOV'IN
I'm looking for fun. Play well with others, easy going and a big smile. Open to try anything once. If I like, I did it again and again and again. **BigSmileKeith**, 43, 📷, **#122157**

SEXY CROSSDRESSER
Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41, 📷, **#122825**

CROSSDRESSER ISO GIRLFRIEND
I am a very passable and kinky crossdresser. I am bisexual, but prefer women. I'm primarily looking for a girlfriend, but occassional play partners and friendships are good, too. **kinky_violet**, 26, 📷, **#120083**

SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS
Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 54, 📷, **#116914**

BLONDE SHEMALE TOP
Hot Blonde TS girl, likes to have late night (no strings) fun. Seeking HOT FIT WHITE Guys that like whats going on between my legs. **BlondeHottie**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#101055**

FOR SOME FUN.....
looking for discreet meetings and full pleasure.wanting someone female,19 to 33,for some play and encounters. must be attractive,and disease free. **urbancowboy76**, 31, 📷, **#124150**

LONG JOHN
I'm 27 from the Caribbean, slim, brown skin. I'm a Scorpio. I love sex. Making your sexual dreams come true is my mission. **joegrind13**, 27, 📷, **#124117**

SUBMISSIVE, GREGARIOUS, OPEN-MINDED
Looking for beautiful Mistress to please and serve. I am well trained and have talents well beyond the bedroom. **yourtoy**, 40, 📷, **#124034**

SOULMATE FOR HOLIDAYS
Seeking soulmate for long-term relationship. Must be loving, caring, warm and kind. I would like to give you pleasure between five and 12 times a day. Please email. Thanks. **krazee4you**, 49, ☎, 📷, **#123978**

WAKEUP
Uninhibited Austinite looking for uninhibited girl.I am a very affectionate person. I would like to get to know you a little before we go further. Explore, Laugh and Have Fun. **Anytime**, 21, ☎, 📷, **#123980**

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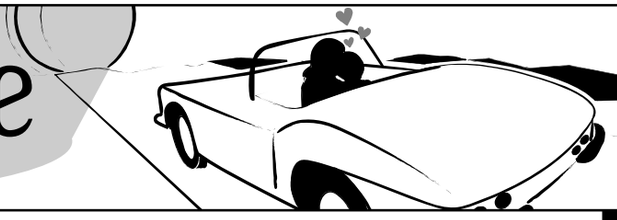
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THE LUV DOC

Man Fest • Sat., Dec. 1, 2-7pm • Birds Barbershop 2110 S. Lamar , www.partyends.com/peblog/2007/11/man_fest_luther.html

What does it take to be a man? Scrotum? Check. Nads? Yuppers. Johnson? Well, it is sort of iconic. Facial hair? Yeah, a scruffy stubble will man you up a bit, but facial hair on some dudes just makes them look like Frida Kahlo … or worse yet, John Waters. Take away the basic sports package, however, and manliness gets a little harder to pin down. For instance, pretty much everyone has nipples, even if you can't milk them. A lot of dude nipples look like big, hairy, asymmetrical, precancerous moles – the type of areolic abominations that not even a rabid wolverine would latch onto, but they're nipples nonetheless – certainly enough to suffice for a prison bitch or a four martini metrosexual. Boobs aren't limited to just one gender either, nor are full, pouty lips, luscious lashes, or shapely legs - two out of three of which can be scored over the counter at Walgreens. Clearly manliness isn't defined solely by physiological characteristics. Richard Simmons may have the chest hair of a lumberjack, but Rosie O'Donnell *es mucho mas macho*, and her chest is smooth as a baby's butt. Don't believe it? Check out Garry Marshall's 1994 classic, *Exit to Eden* where she and Dan Ackroyd play cops sent to a Caribbean sex resort to track down plum … uh … diamond smugglers. Fast-forward to the scene where Rosie sports fishnets, a garter, and what can only be described as a high-test brassiere version of assless chaps. Game on, bitch. As Ro so brilliantly illustrates, a huge pair of knockers doesn't necessarily preclude entry into the man club. Remember Meatloaf in *Fight Club*? Bad fucking ass. He was rocking EEs and an empty nutsack and he was still able to channel his inner warrior. OK, he cried a lot and got his ass kicked by Ed Norton (who is hairless and slightly more fem than Andy Dick on the masculinity scale) but give him props for manufacturing testosterone out of thin air. Ask yourself: If you met Meatloaf in a dark alley, would you have the huevos to man up and throw down? And if you pinned him on his back would you rip off his shirt and motorboat those huge fun bags? Of course you would. And would that make you less of a man? Questions like these have been plaguing manly philosophers since the ancient Greeks, who occasionally dabbled in heterosexuality when they weren't carving penis sculptures and nude oil wrestling. In recent years, civilization has fallen off the wagon when it comes to celebrating manliness and men. In fact, some ball-draggers would even claim that being "festive" is essentially unmanly. Well, balderdash. What could be manlier than celebrating men? Not sure? Well, you can see for yourself this weekend when Birds Barbershop and plucky online zine PartyEnds.com host Man Fest, a butchy event featuring arm-wrestling competitions, a lumberjack photo booth, shoe shines, confidence rock (google it) DJ sets, and live music by the über-manly Golden Bear, whose lead singer Chris "Grizzle" Gregory is a cross between Bright Eyes and Hank Williams Jr. Man enough for you? If not, there will also be free scotch from Dewar's, free beer from Steamworks Brewing Company, and wieners - lots and lots of wieners.

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women SEEKING men

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
Just moved to Austin and would really enjoy just meeting someone and getting to know the city. Love to do or go anywhere long as its fun. Up for anything. **mal06**, 19, 📷, **#124208**

EARTH!!!
I listen to my dreams. I love my cat. Long lines make me antsy. Emotions are important. The tambourine gives me energy. Christmas scares me. **magicmaker**, 25, 📷, **#123489**

THAT FUNKY MONKEY
I'm 21...currently working toward a government degree...I love to laugh..i'm not looking for a serious relationship... maybe just someone to watch Chris Farley movies with...we'll see where it goes. **Chachi**, 21, 📷, **#124173**

MAKING IT!
Partial to music, making out, making it! Impartial to liars, mooches, slutty chicks (take it off for money or love girls), people who clap at the end of movies. **jennasis**, 24, 📷, **#124177**

LOVE AND HAPPINESS
I'm a freelance writer and mother of a young child. I strive to live an ethical life free of religion. I hope you're funny, smart and a good listener. **PlanetJan**, 45, 📷, **#124147**

FUN AND EASYGOING
I've been told I should come with a warning label. I love the outdoors, music, movies, beer and laughing. Honesty is important. Not looking for serious, but serious fun. **sunnygirl**, 31, ☎, 📷, **#124138**

LIVELY AND FUN!
I'm looking for someone to go waltzing in the rain, prancing through creekbeds, and galavanting in the park with. Let's run away on an adventure! **Carrie_E**, 20, 📷, **#124111**

LAUGHTER IS NECESSARY
I'm a fun, kind, well-educated woman in search of a man who is the same. I just moved to Austin and I would like to make some male friends. **beagle-baby**, 41, 📷, **#124061**

STRESSED COLLEGE CO-ED
I'm the one who drives with the windows down and the radio on full blast. I'm the one who slips and falls and can't help but laugh. I'm the one... **kl1153**, 20, 📷, **#124057**

UP TO 5
If your like me, you scroll until you find what you like.... **tasha**, 38, 📷, **#124020**

SARAHLEE
My name is SarahLee and i love music,laughing, and my friends. I am a real random person. I am looking for someone who gets my jokes, in college with style. **sarahlee89**, 18, 📷, **#124045**

LOOKING TO DATE
I'm a 27 yr old grad student at Texas State U. and work full time. I like to do things outdoors. I love animals, football (go cowboys), arguing (not yelling). **tigertiff816**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#123956**

COULD THIS WORK?
Not sure, but what the heck! I enjoy salsa dancing, traveling, family gatherings and good friends/company... I would like to find someone special with similar traits. **mexican_gordita**, 37, 📷, **#123930**

I WALK FAST!
Am I delightful? why yes. **bintalbalad**, 46, 📷, **#123836**

I'M ORGANIC
Perfect date: Canoeing on Town lake with a pic-nic basket. Sharing a hammock under the stars. Taking the dogs to the greenbelt. Are you up for it? **txchzhead**, 33, 📷, **#123759**

DISPLACED
Newly transplanted here. I enjoy: music of the indie rock variety; literature; film; witty banter; coffee; good company; vegetarian food; singing passionately, yet primarily off key, while driving my car. **carebear**, 28, 📷, **#123724**

FUN LUVIN GIRLIE
I am a single mom that needs to get out and have some fun. I typically hang out with my daughter, shop, hike and play on my computer. **HeatherLkL**, 37, ☎, 📷, **#123701**

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FRIENDLY, LOVING, SMART
I am fairly well in the middle of the extrovert/introvert scale. I am a kind, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted, and growing person. **aprilfourteenth**, 54, ☎, 📷, **#123925**

HELLO
i am a very good looking girl looking for a man who know what love is all about to a woman. **suslove**, 24, 📷, **#123889**

TRUE CONNECTION SAUGHT
Libra metal chick lookin for some love...likes shows,parties,drinkin. Looking for a real connection...whatever else that entails then so be it..must love to go to shows and be a social person... **luvinlady**, 20, 📷, **#123845**

ADVENTUROUS
New to Austin ... energetic, confident woman with a sense of humor and a curious mind. I enjoy music, dancing, walking Town Lake ... looking to share with someone special. **AustinNewbie**, 63, 📷, **#123829**

FRACTION OF ME
I'm only getting 30 words to describe myself. Impossible - so let's talk when I don't have limitations... Did I mention that I am fun? Ask, I'll send pics (30). **Myself**, 30, 📷, **#123785**

MONEYHUNGRY, RUTHLESS, BITCH
I want a man to cook my breakfast lunch and dinner while i sit on the couch and eat bon bons like women are supposed to do. **gigglesmuch**, 26, 📷, **#123784**

men SEEKING women

LAIDBACK ROCKET SCIENTIST
I'm a graduate student in aerospace engineering and am looking for a sweet girl. I love going to the Alamo Drafthouse, as well as good beer and decent wine. **ginsberg**, 21, 📷, **#124205**

SEMI-HIP GEEK
I'm a recent college graduate now out in the real world. Essentially, I'm not dumb, I'm a good person, and I want to meet someone of the same ilk. **j322**, 24, 📷, **#124200**

INTREPID, CREATIVE CELT
Is there just one loving,effervescent, educated women in Austin who does not drink, smoke or do drugs and desires to be serenaded on a Grand Piano by candlelight every night? **bornacelt**, 58, 📷, **#124186**

' ROCK !
"For i have always been here",,but now is my time,an time today is so important. i must warn you that i do have an agenda. **agent_x**, 53, 📷, **#123106**

FUQ I'M ENLIGHTENED
Decent guy looking for decent girl with compatible parts. **KingLeo**, 34, ☎, 📷, **#124181**

SEARCHING 4 LOVE
Im Harriman.my friends really wanted me to give this a try and i hope its gonna work for me .I look forward to meet a caring and very understading woman. **harrylovesyou**, 28, 📷, **#124175**

NEW TO AUSTIN
Lived in Austin for 3 weeks... **maleko842002**, 26, 📷, **#124101**

GARDENS GUITARS DOGS
been alone for a few years now not really sure how to "be" with someone anymore kinda like to try, though. **gardendude**, 48, ☎, 📷, **#124166**

OFF THE WAGON
Childlike, but not childish. Interested? Contact me. Couldn't hurt, might be fun. **Wandering1**, 42, 📷, **#124161**

COOL CAT
College student at ACC. I'm a very sociable upbeat person,I'm looking for a stable individual. 18 and up of course. Attractive and good natured. **juguarj2007**, 20, 📷, **#124157**

LETS PARTY
Hye Austin ladies, well I am here looking for somoeone to enjoy this great lil city with. Lets start out as friends and see where it goes from there. **latino-heat11**, 30, 📷, **#124153**

YOU'RE MISSING OUT
dinner out, cooking at home, an improv show, B-scene friday, a show at Emo's, dancing at the Continental Club, a house party, dinner with friends, or coffee at Flight Path. **unicorn_knight**, 36, 📷, **#124152**

CREATIVE, OUTGOING, ADVENTUROUS
Looking for a girl, one that's challenging, beautiful, engaging, and altogether herself. I tend to choose unconventional date ideas; never a dull moment, though I'm not so easily described here. **Anthony_in_Real_Life**, 18, 📷, **#124148**

REHAB'S FOR QUITTERS
Partying/acting crazy is daily dose of my reality. Working out and running are a must. Accepting indifference but still being passionate about what your doing is a gift, use it. **Rooster**, 21, 📷, **#124136**

FANGORIOUSLY IDEALISTIC LAD
I'd like to consider myself a self-contained smart neurotic person who embodies silliness. I'm really into cinema, good listener, and would rather learn more about you than talk about myself. **mrshankly85**, 22, 📷, **#123806**

MUSIC, ROWING XBOX360
An exiled, self-righteous, intellectual, theoretical, energetic.into music. I like to meet a person who like to share thoughts, feelings. Who like to spend time with others and make it fun. **Roy_**, 24, 📷, **#124124**

CUNNING LINGUIST
World travel has taught me much and I would like to think that those experiences have made me who I am today. **CJHolmes**, 38, 📷, **#124107**

THIS A JOKE?
Im really carefree. Keep the drama out of my life. If you wanna know more go ahead and message me. I could use a running partner as well. **jcffffff**, 23, 📷, **#124104**

NO REPTILES!
philosopher,musician,soapboxer looking for someone just right, to brighten days, and nights. hard working,loving, loyal, and optimistic. NSA, LTR, whatever, just want to find someone to have fun with,no big deal. **roberttheprole**, 29, 📷, **#124083**

women SEEKING women

KINK_FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalicious**, 22, 📷, **#124160**

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20, 📷, **#124126**

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24, 📷, **#124084**

AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#124075**

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarrettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselfs. **smile4me**, 18, 📷, **#123970**

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25, 📷, **#123723**

ECLECTIC SEEKER EXPLORER
GWF ht/wt prop. blessed/cursed with high intellect and eclectic knowledge, passionate, strong-willed,traveled,versed,experienced.SEEKING prof/educated GF into nature, outdoors,pets, long walks/hikes books,TASTING food, digital photography, learning and exploring, no head games, BS. **Tannerjune**, 50, 📷, **#123745**

I LOVE REDHEADS
I'm a history nut who loves film and civil rights. I'm not uncomfortable feeling weird and I'm looking for someone who feels the same. **heyyouitsme**, 19, 📷, **#123523**

LIGHT MY FIRE
classic, curvy, shy cuddle bunny looking for a beautiful, unique, intelligent and open-minded girl who can tolerate my occasional dorkiness and random dancing. well? could we get much higher? hahaha. **ganjxnymph**, 18, 📷, **#123442**

FEROCIOUS, FIREY, KIND
I love to laugh at life & look in people's eyes. I'm not afraid of love, but I'm not chasing it. I'm want a strong women - physically emotionally mentally. **Enijen**, 25, 📷, **#123441**

men SEEKING men

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 53, 📷, **#121119**

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39, 📷, **#123381**

BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotallers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc. **Sarkany**, 30, 📷, **#123189**

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42, 📷, **#121697**

ATYPICAL, FLACO, EASY-GOING
Eclectic, smart, fun, professional, creative, curious, outdoors, DIY, garden, software, humor, travel. You also please be relatively fit, mature, confident, diverse interests, traveled, down-to-earth, spirited, versatile. **divid0**, 48, 📷, **#119363**

SEEKING LTR
Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 49, 📷, **#119526**

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24, 📷, **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. Iím looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26, 📷, **#115939**

Mal06

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'

I just moved to Austin, still getting use to it. I LOVE it so far. Im new to all this so I thought I'd put myself out there and try and get to know some people here. Humor to me is huge, I love to laugh. I'll do anything from sky diving to watching a movie on the couch as long as its fun.

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Cindie's

JUST friends

IT'S ALL GOOD!
Looking for a boyfriend? I am 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer.I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest,no drugs,is that you? Let me know. **HusbandMaterial**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#115672**

SHORT N SWEET
Short and sweet is my name, making friends is my game. Think you can outcheese me? I dare you to give it a go. **VanaloveOo**, 18, 📷, **#124156**

NEW TO AUSTIN
I'm new to Austin and looking for some new friends to go out with at night. I'm smart, sarcastic, and professional and really, I'm just looking to have fun. **puckplayer**, 22, 📷, **#124100**

OI!
Im relatively new to the area and am lookin for people of similiar mind and vibe to stroll through Austin with and share some good experiences. **cyrus**, 33, 📷, **#124051**

PICK ME!
I am not a fortunate son, in fact, much the opposite. Working hard, learning from mistakes, and constantly challenging my reality for the purposes of self-improvement are philosophies I embrace. **irotsoma**, 30, 📷, **#123976**

HILARIOUS CRAZY GAL
I am looking for a new running buddy or buddies to go out with in Austin. I lost my road dawgs to the enemy of marriage, significant others and kids. **chyllatxgal**, 35, ☎, 📷, **#123929**

IT'S JUST BIZAAR
well hello. i just moved to austin. looking for some guys or girls that like to go to shows, do things outside, have random spontanious nights and drink some. :). **hayleyxelizabeth**, 20, 📷, **#123848**

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS
New in town and so far loving it... but would like to meet some like minded people to share time and go out with. **lucyndsky**, 51, 📷, **#123762**

GRAB 'EM BISCUITS!
Just moved to Austin. Looking for some fun and interesting people to do stuff with. It's really simple. **maxepad**, 18, 📷, **#123711**

GROOVY DORK
if you enjoy a random mind and a BIG heart,then im the girl for you.im open minded and veary silly lets hang out and be crazy together! **pinkey**, 20, 📷, **#119460**

SOUND HEART&MIND
Hearz sum things I enjoy doing: eating fresh, organic food, creating and playing music, bike riding, brushing my teeth, cooking, reading, writing, hugging, bird watching, kissing, star gazing, snuggling, traveling. **ENAMORADOCONTIGO**, 33, 📷, **#123668**

messages

I AM TOTALLY infatuated with you but not for sex. So please don't be so afraid!

ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ GÓMEZ: Never the Church fell so silent in the face of human degradation. Why have you forsaken us? Paul Aviña.

AS I REMEMBER, both our days fall in early november. The desire to catch just one glance, only to know you're well, is the hardest temptation I ever fought. Forever you'll be my first waking thought. LOVE K.

ROBERT: I LOVE you more! Michelle

a Shot in the Dark

CHEMISTRY?
I played a role as an oxygen in a water molecule, you told me I did well right after class. could there be chemistry between us? **When: Tuesday, October 16. Where: Welch hall, UT. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902438**

PEASE PARK PITBULLS
You were wearing a pink dress and walking your pitbull. I was playing disc golf with my pit. I live in Colorado, but I will be in Austin again soon! **When: Thursday, November 15. Where: Pease Park. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902437**

FRIENDLY FREEBIRDS GUY
i saw you at freebirds on red river on mon november 26th. i am blonde and was wearing a veggie heaven shirt. was there anything? **When: Monday, November 26. Where: Freebirds on Red River. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902436**

SNUGGLY HALCYON CORNER
you were on your computer. i was with two friends at a table. we spoke briefly and i liked your beenie. maybe next time we can share that corner. **When: Sunday, November 25. Where: Halcyon on 4th Street. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902435**

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL
You sat next to me during Alex Ross panel wearing chucks and a hotness that left me to shy to ask if you wanted to get coffee sometime. Asking now. **When: Thursday, November 1. Where: Depths of the Capital building. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902433**

STARBUCKS COMPUTER MOM
Shannon, I had to leave early, but meeting you was the highlight of my week. Let's meet there again soon, okay? Bring Nathan. **When: Sunday, November 18. Where: coffee shop - date uncertain. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902432**

TARGET ON 183
You, big guy. I said hi. I think we were cruising each other. I was the big guy like you. Please find me Friday same place same time. **When: Wednesday, November 21. Where: Target on 183. You: Man. Me: Man. #902431**

STUCK SHOE
You're the Cinderella whose shoe I freed from the evil mat on Thanksgiving. Wishing my fingers could've lingered. While I'm no prince I can give a mean foot massage...or more? **When: Thursday, November 22. Where: The Driskill. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902430**

PEACOCK!
you were hating my socks, but I was loving your peacock act, want to be birds of a feather and connect four? **When: Friday, November 16. Where: Mars. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902415**

*****WOOZY HELMUT LIVES!*****
I saw you w/ your fellow bandmates. Enjoying veggie heaven. We lived at the 21st coop back in 1998. Do you remember me? I'm always 2 shy 2 say hi! **When: Saturday, November 24. Where: veggie heaven. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902428**

AESOPSHOW SAGEFRANCIS T-SHIRT
In front of me at Aesop. Tats, guages and Sage T. Saved your beer. Didn't get name or number and regret it. Blonde in 70's ski sweater w/vest. Donnie Darko? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: Emo's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902425**

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLARY
Stunning beauty, long dark hair, high cheekbones. On stairs by bar in white sweater with two friends. Me in black shirt dancing below, watching you more than band. Meet again? **When: Wednesday, November 21. Where: Gallary @ Continental Club. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902424**

HANCOCK HEB CHECKOUT
November 19 We were in checkout line fighting the mob to get out. You getting some things,the ingredients to make a cheese cake and 2 bottles of wine. Let's meet. **When: Monday, November 19. Where: Hancock HEB. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902423**

ALLERGIC TO CHICKEN
7PMish, you: brown shirt, Levi's, said there were so many soups. You recommended Pacific chicken, then told me you had chicken allergy(!). Intrigued. Would like to learn more. Coffee, drinks? **When: Sunday, November 18. Where: Central Market, N. Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902422**

RUTA MAYA SALSA
On 11/14, You were "working". You have a GREAT SMILE. Should've asked for your number. I'm the silly redhead who dragged you out to dance. See you again next week? **When: Wednesday, November 14. Where: Ruta Maya. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902421**

ELEANOR POST TUESDAY
It was great to meet you,next time let me get you that cab. Speaking of next time, wanna teach someone to skate or learn to breakdance in 2008? - Damon **When: Tuesday, November 20. Where: Beauty Bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902420**

SEXY PIRATE HALLOWEEN
We said we'd meet next year at the cave. You made me pinky swear. Would you like to meet sooner? **When: Saturday, October 27. Where: Cave Halloween Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902417**

LIPS, TATTOOS, WHEELCHAIR
In that order! me: Red hair/tattoos/short/spaced out wandering the aisles with my cart. you: lips/more-tattoos/dark hair/wheelchair. Captivated/intrigued/& in lust. Would like a chance to hang and see if there's anything? **When: Sunday, November 18. Where: Whole Foods Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902419**

WHOLE FOODS 6TH
You:deli counter, dark hair, blue shirt, jeans, work boots. Me: salad bar, blonde,teal sweater, jeans, with daughter. Wish I had said something but meat jokes would have been too obvious. **When: Thursday, November 15. Where: Whole Foods Central Deli Counter. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902418**

AETCHEIGHT LOVER'S LANE
I really like your photography, that is all. **When: Monday, November 19. Where: Lover's Lane. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902416**

SEXY AT STEAKHOUSE
30-something Asian woman wearing yellow sweater, sharing a meal with girlfriends. Couldn't take my eyes off you!! I have blonde hair and was dining with my folks few tables away. **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: Cool River Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902414**

BROWN BRONCO DRIVER
I was the tall blond stealing glances at you while you glanced at art. Passed at two studios and I was still too shy to say hi. Third time's charm??? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: East side Art Crawl. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902413**

LUCKY AT LUCKLOUNGE
You: Blonde, bought Boombox panties, put on behind my desk. Me: Glasses, quirky merch. You changed panties by me, too shy to do anything, let me know if I can... **When: Tuesday, October 16. Where: Lucky Lounge. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902412**

AUSTIN TO DALLAS
Boarding SW Flight 900/Wed. You Dallas suit and long ponytail, me long hair and turquoise shirt. Do you always stare so long into ones eyes or was it my soul? **When: Wednesday, November 14. Where: Austin airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902411**

PEACOCK!
You were talking like peacocks do but still pointed out that you didnt approve of my ankle socks. Would you like to hold hands? Checkmate. **When: Monday, November 12. Where: Mars South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902410**

HEY SCHNEBLY GIRL.
We met at the Northloop block party We talked about food and music and discovered we're neighbors. You: Gorgeous, short haired, dark eyed beauty Me: Hopelessly smitten Coffee? Cohabitation? More? **When: Tuesday, November 13. Where: Northloop. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902409**

BLOND AT BORIS
You were the stunning blonde in the long-sleeve lavender/purple minidress at the Boris show on 10/19 at Mohawk. Me: Shaved head guy. Can't stop thinking of you! A drink/coffee? **When: Friday, October 19. Where: Mohawk. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902408**

BJ'S RESTAURANT
you: oklahoma fan, great smile, short brown hair Me: sitting at the table next to you I just moved to Austin. Would you like to hang out? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: BJ's restaurant. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902407**

AESOP ROCKER
You: Aerosmith tee at the Aesop show. Me: behind you. You bumped knuckles with my friend, but we exited so fast I couldn't get your name. Want to meet up? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: Emo's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902406**

CHIC AT CHICK-FIL-A
You: "Aspen" working drive-thru at Chick-Fil-A. Me: silver truck with my puppy, fibbing to use extra coupons. Said you have a pretty name, would love to see your smile again **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: Chick-Fil-A. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902405**

DWI STOP FRIDAY
Melanie? We talked while my friend did the DWI field test. Asked me about my bicycle. Thought you were nice. Drinks sometime? **When: Friday, November 16. Where: Stassney. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902403**

JOSH ROUSE SHOW
Erin - The Parish Josh Rouse show - We got your playlist signed together and walked you to your car. Still thinking about you - please contact me... **When: Friday, September 28. Where: Parish. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902402**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for November 30 - December 6

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): "I need a strategy for bringing constructive change into my life on an ongoing basis," a Sagittarian reader named Ursula wrote to me. "I want to figure out how to arrange for a never-ending series of gentle wake-up calls. When that happens, I will have mastered the sinewy magic of being permanently unstuck. I will have made it a habit to be highly alert and wildly responsive in the most relaxed ways possible. The world will look completely different to me then; reality itself will have mutated. I won't cling to little scraps of hope that make me feel secure but will instead be on the prowl for fresh challenges that constantly expand my love for life." Ursula's longing is a brilliant articulation of what I think all of you Sagittarians should quest for in the coming weeks.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): I think it's a good idea for you to give up mediocre pleasures that drain your energy and diminish your intelligence. I also wish you would sacrifice irrelevant fantasies and deluded hopes that lead you away from your riveting dreams. On the other hand, I will rejoice if you commit yourself twice as intensely to the robust pleasures that refine your energy and boost your intelligence. And I will love it if you take three practical actions to supercharge one of your riveting dreams.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): What if I told you there will be 13 militantly helpful angels in gossamer armor standing guard around your bed every night, fighting off nightmares and ensuring that your dreams are blessed with floods of sublimely practical revelations? Would you regard what I said as a poetic metaphor, as the hyperbolic fantasy of a kooky astrology writer? Or is there a chance you'd take me literally? That you'd consider my vision to be the prophetic truth about an actual event? If it's the latter, then I urge you to be aggressive about asking the angels for the very best mojo they can muster. This is one time when you have license to be greedy about tapping into the primal power of supernatural goodness.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): This would be a good week for you to tell people's fortunes at parties and help the police solve crimes with your clairvoyant abilities and read the minds of those you love in order to communicate with them better. What? You say you don't have any psychic powers? That's a dirty lie! You most certainly do. It may be true that your culture has brainwashed you into denying and suppressing them. But I assure you that they are lying there half-dormant, just waiting for you to believe in them and use them for everyone's benefit. And this is an ideal time, astrologically speaking, for you to do just that.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): How much more can you hold? How much further are you willing to reach? How much bigger of a big picture can you open your mind to see? We will soon discover the answers to those questions, as well as several others that have to do with the themes of unbinding, emancipation, and the loss of inhibition. Judging from my reading of the astrological omens, I'd say the prospects are high for you to achieve a record-breaking state of relaxed and curious expansiveness.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Explore the off-limits area of your imagination, Taurus. I'm talking about that barely conscious part of your psyche where taboo fantasies and unruly notions have been steadily growing in the dark, accumulating the dark luminosity that all secret things do. If you consort with them now, you'll be just in time to prevent them from becoming monstrous and reeling out of control. Even better, you'll have a good chance of shaping them into resources that will serve you well.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): I recommend that you read one of those ground-level books on intimacy skills, like *Relationships for Dummies* or *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Romance*. It's not that you are any dumber about these matters than the rest of us; it's just that this is a favorable time for you to work harder than usual on boosting your love IQ. Remedial efforts taken now will generate assistance and inspiration from unexpected sources. For best results, I suggest you consider keeping a journal about the lessons you'll be asked to master. Title it something like: How I'm Becoming as Smart About Love as I Am About Everything Else in My Life.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): During the heyday of samurai culture, the Japanese word *tsuji-giri* meant "to try out a new sword on a passerby." After analyzing your astrological omens, Cancerian, I'm appealing to you not to commit the metaphorical equivalent of that in the coming week. Here's what I mean: You've got good reasons to use the metaphorical equivalent of a new sword, and you will wreak some constructive havoc if you direct your warrior attitude at the right targets. But if, on the other hand, you carelessly slice and dice passersby and other innocents who don't deserve it, you'll waste that valuable resource and won't correct the problems that have piqued your sense of injustice.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): "When love is not madness, it is not love," said Spanish dramatist Pedro Calderon de la Barca. But according to my analysis of the astrological omens, you will dramatically disprove that notion in the coming weeks, Leo. In fact, I'm betting that love will make you stark, raving sane. It will calm you down, heal a wound or two, improve your eyesight, help you understand yourself better, improve your digestion, and stimulate you to become more tolerant and forgiving toward the entire world.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): First let me make it clear that I'm not predicting you will face difficult events in the coming days. Not at all. Second, I'm not saying you will have to endure more pain than usual. Third, I believe your suffering will be about average – similar to what normal people bear in normal times. Having said all that, though, I encourage you to be aggressively exploratory toward the pain you feel. Have long talks with your murky fears. Gaze bravely into the parts of your life that make you sad. Why? Because it's a favorable time to search for treasure that's buried in the shadows – to enhance your psychological health by dealing with what's not so healthy. Recall Carl Jung's wise words: "The foundation of all mental illness is an unwillingness to experience legitimate suffering."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Some years ago, in an advertisement designed to attract Spanish-speaking flyers, U.S.-based Braniff Airlines bragged about its leather seats with the phrase "*viajar en cuero*." But that phrase actually means "to travel stark naked," not "to travel on leather." The marketing department goofed. One of your main goals in the coming week, Libra, should be to prevent comparable outbreaks of the "lost in translation" syndrome. In fact, I urge you to act as an interpreter in situations where different worlds overlap. Be sure, for example, that extroverts and introverts understand one another. Facilitate the communication between cynics and optimists, morning people and night owls, caffeine addicts and potheads, dreamers and realists. Be especially alert for misunderstandings that may arise during interactions between the right and left sides of your own brain.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Are you ready for your next big initiation? Probably not, but that's OK. Your upgrade to the next level should go fine, even if you wobble and sputter for a while before and after. Just to let you know, there may be no single striking event to dramatize it for you. It could arrive almost secretly in a roller-coaster dream or announce itself with a warm rush of unfamiliar emotion while you're in the middle of lunch. But however it insinuates its way into your awareness, Scorpio, it will open you to the possibility of seeing things that have been invisible to you before now.

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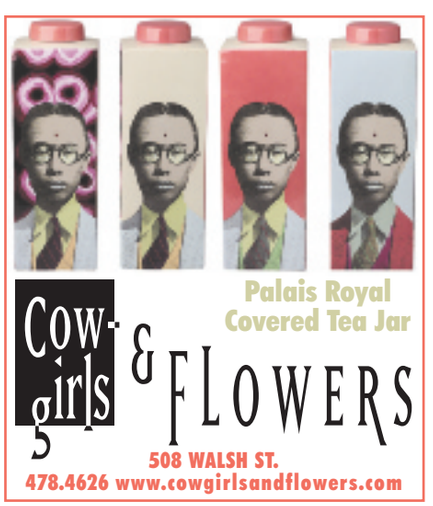
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